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*"If you treat sin like a snack, you'll never go to God like He's bread.  
You'll nibble on the world and wonder why you're still hungry."*

[Jackie Hill Perry]

## ENGAGE & CONNECT

Let's begin with confession. What's one thing you believed as a kid that you now laugh about?

## BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

[1 John 1:8-9]

## BIG IDEA

If you want to experience a more joyful life that leads people to see Jesus more clearly, then you have to take your sin seriously.

## PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

### Matthew 5:29-30

1. Why do you think Jesus uses language such as gouging out your eye and cutting off your hand to describe the sin in our life? How does that make you feel?

### Romans 6:1-14

2. What misunderstanding about grace does Paul address? (v. 1-2)
3. What does Paul mean when he talks about not letting sin reign and not offering our bodies to sin? (v. 12-13)
4. Why is it essential for us to understand our identity in Christ when fighting sin?
5. In the sermon we heard, *"You are not bound or stuck in any sin that the power of Christ in you cannot overcome."* What hope does this offer us?
6. How could understanding sin as "fighting against the purpose of God" reshape how we view personal struggles like gossip, lust, or envy?
7. In what area of your life are you currently offering your "members"—your words, thoughts, or actions—to unrighteousness?

8. What practical defenses (i.e. Scripture, confession, prayer, community) are you using—or neglecting—in your fight against sin?
9. How can we help those who feel stuck(our group, friends, family, etc.) in sin to not hide in shame but run to grace?

## STEP OF OBEDIENCE

The Christian life is not about behavior management but about **radical heart transformation** empowered by our **union with Christ**. Jesus calls us to take sin seriously—because He loves us deeply. [That means we must refuse](#) to let sin reign, defend our hearts with truth, and offer our lives to God as weapons for righteousness. The fight is real, but grace is greater!

[As you consider your next step, here are two questions to reflect on:](#) 1) What sin have I been tolerating instead of crucifying? 2) Where do I need to believe again that Christ's power is greater than my sin?

## Possible Next Steps of Faith

1. **Confess a specific sin** to a trusted friend this week. Ask for prayer and encouragement.
2. **Take one offensive step** by writing down a way you will offer yourself as a “weapon for righteousness” this week—in your home, work, or church.

## PRAYER FOCUS

### Joy Through Surrender

Today, let's prayerfully experience deeper joy by honestly confessing sin and freshly receiving Christ's grace.

- Silently reflect on this question: *“[Lord, is there any sin, attitude, or habit that's quietly stealing my joy in You?](#)”*
- Silently confess that sin to Jesus.
- Now silently tell Jesus: ‘I surrender this to you, and I trust you to forgive and change me.’”
- Speak out one **truth from the Gospel** in response to your confession. Here are some examples:
  - “In Christ, I am forgiven.”
  - “Jesus paid for this at the cross.”
  - “The joy of the Lord is my strength.”

*“Father, restore the joy of your salvation to us, and help us live it out with clear hearts and open hands. Amen.”*

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Romans Ch. 6 Commentary](#) & [Walk In the Newness of Life](#)
  - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [The Dragon Hiding In Your Desires](#)
  - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.