What’s the Big Deal About Sin?

If I’m Forgiven, What’s the Big Deal About Sin?

Key Faith Foundation: Confessing Sin and Pursuing God

Key Scriptures: Psalm 32; 51; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:12-15

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**Supplies**
- Bibles, Grapple DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, 3x5 cards

**grapple community:** 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the Grapple DVD to wrap up Grapple Community time.

**grapple games:** 10 -15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at mygrapple.com.

**grapple clues**

Have kids write the answers to this week’s Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. (Answers in parentheses are samples.) The winning team gets the Grapple Button.

**CLUE 1 [333 points]:** Discover an example of God or Jesus forgiving someone. *(Jesus forgave Peter, John 21; God forgave David, 2 Samuel 12; Jesus forgave the paralyzed man, Mark 2:5)*

**CLUE 2 [123 points]:** Find a person or a group of people who confessed sins. *(David, Psalm 51; the people of Nineveh, Jonah 3)*

**CLUE 3 [582 points]:** Discover how long one person in your Grapple Team has kept a secret.

**CLUE 4 [239 points]:** Find someone in our class who has a secret talent—juggling or bending over backward, for example.
grapple time: 10 minutes

Cue the Grapple DVD to the “Forgiven” clip.

Lead the entire class in the following:

There are some sins that—if we’re honest—kind of seem like fun, right? They don’t seem to hurt anybody; they’re not a big deal. Like staying up past lights out or being disrespectful of your mom and sneaking a cookie she said you shouldn’t eat. Everyone does stuff like that, right? It’s tempting and fun... and if you’re already forgiven because Jesus is your Savior, what’s the big deal? Write down one sin that really tempts you, a sin that seems harmless and fun.

Hand out 3x5 cards, and give kids a minute to write. Then have kids bring the cards to you. When you have all the cards, shuffle them and then give each person a card. Ask kids to break into groups.

Take turns trying to get your groups to guess what sin is on your card. Here’s the catch: You can talk, but you can’t say the actual name of the sin. You have to use other words and actions to describe the sin until someone in your group actually guesses it.

What sins did you guess?

Why do you agree or disagree that the sins from our game aren’t a big deal? Tell about a time you did one of the things mentioned on a card, and describe what happened as a result.

If we’re already forgiven, what’s wrong with a little sin? Let’s watch a video and think more about that.

Show the “Forgiven” clip from the Grapple DVD.

The kids in the video were forgiven, right? Explain why you do or don’t think that means they can get away with anything.

So what’s wrong with sinning if God is just going to forgive us? Why not have a little fun and do whatever we want? Why should we have to follow the rules anymore if Jesus got rid of them? If we’re already forgiven, what’s the big deal about sin? Let’s grapple with that.
grapple team time: 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 5-6. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

grapple team reports: 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 6. Have teams present their reports.

grapple prayer: 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: Temptation Prayers
Pray about one thing that tempts you—a sin you always want to do, even though you know it’s wrong. Ask God to help you not do that thing this week.

Option 2: Scripture Prayers
Take turns reading Romans 6:15, putting a sin at the end of the verse each time, like this: “Well then, since God’s grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning” by...? Then together shout, “Of course not!”

grapple dare

Sure, sin may seem fun and exciting and not a big deal—especially if you already know you’re forgiven. But the truth is that sin ruins everything. God doesn’t ask you not to sin because he wants to stop you from having fun. God tells you not to sin because God knows it will hurt you and your relationship with him. So I dare you to choose not to sin the next time you’re tempted, even if the sin doesn’t seem like a big deal. I dare you to turn away from sin and ask God to help you grow closer in your relationship to him.

Remember to go to mygrapple.com this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.
In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today’s question.

Think of the dirtiest, grossest, most disgusting thing you can think of. Now draw a picture of it here.

Now think of the most beautiful, most pure, and cleanest thing you can think of. Draw a picture of it here.

**Read Psalm 51 and Isaiah 59:1-2.**

*In Pairs*  
*Explain why you’d rather be the gross thing or the beautiful thing? Which of the psalm’s verses match the gross side, and which match the clean side? How does forgiveness take you from the gross picture to the beautiful picture? According to these passages, what are some consequences of sin even though God has already forgiven us?*
Read Romans 6:12-15.
What do you think Paul meant when he wrote, “You were dead, but now you have new life”? How does having a new life affect whether or not you choose to sin on purpose? How can these verses encourage you to live differently?

Read Psalm 32.
What does God call us to do if we’ve sinned even if we’re Christians? Why do you think we’re supposed to do this? How does following this command help you grow in your relationship with God?

What is one thing you need to confess to God right now?

grapple team reports
With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: Team Chant
Come up with a team cheer or chant to describe what you learned today.

Option 2: Acrostic
Come up with eight sentences or words to describe what you learned today. Here’s the catch, though: Each sentence or word has to start with one of these letters: F-O-R-G-I-V-E-N. The first sentence with an F, the second one with an O, the third with an R, and so on.