

"When City Kids Don't Get It"

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Puzzled by the word sin

In recent years I've taught many children who, after weeks of learning about sin, still give me puzzled looks.

How to connect with kids about sin

Ask the children what "bad" things kids do (no names please -- no tattling!). Remind them that when rules are broken, God calls it "sinning". Alternative definitions are "rebelling against God" or "choosing your own way".

Reasons why children may not admit sin

Lack of trust- When they admit sin, it may be used to ridicule them outside of class. To survive, they may protect themselves through denial.

Fear of rejection- They may be afraid of condemnation. To win them over, establish an atmosphere of unconditional acceptance.

Lack of conviction- If a child is *new* to God's teaching about sin, they may not understand yet. Pray for them. It may take weeks for trust to grow -- hang in there!

Pleasure of sin- Wrongdoing may seem like fun for a time -- or until we get caught. Kids should learn about the consequences of sin.

Actions	Results or Consequences
1. You do not study.	You get bad grades.
2. You are unkind.	People are unkind to you.
3. You steal or lie for a long time,	You may go to jail.
4. You kill.	You go to prison.

What to do when children ask you what sins you have committed

Your class is testing to see if you trust them. Admit a reoccurring sin in your life (speeding, unkind words, breaking promises, etc.). When you admit your sin, they become more open, too.

Teaching Kids About Sin:

1. Start with examples
2. Show what God says
3. Share your shortcomings
4. Sense why they don't admit sin
5. Sabotage lies about sin