



Understanding Our Need for a Savior: Exploring Universal Sinfulness

By Ariel Presswood

Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Objective:

This activity set aims to deepen participants' understanding of universal sinfulness, personal responsibility, and the necessity of Jesus' sacrifice. By incorporating scripture, real-life applications, thought-provoking discussions, hands-on activities, and reflective exercises, participants will be guided toward an enriched awareness of their spiritual journey and their dependence on Christ.

Through this experience, children, families, and small groups will:

- Recognize that sin is a universal issue.
- Understand how sin separates us from God.
- Learn why Jesus' sacrifice was necessary for redemption.
- Discover how a Christ-centered life leads to transformation.
- Apply biblical principles in daily life through practical challenges.



Section 1: Reflect and Discuss

Deep Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean to “fall short of the glory of God,” and how does this apply to everyone?
2. Have you ever faced a situation where you had to admit you were wrong? How did it feel, and what did you learn from it?
3. How does acknowledging our shortcomings help us develop humility?
4. Why do we sometimes resist admitting our mistakes? What are the dangers of ignoring sin?
5. In what ways does recognizing our need for a Savior impact our daily decisions and attitudes?
6. How does the concept of sin differ between how the world sees it and how God defines it?
7. What are some things you might be tempted to place your confidence in instead of Christ?
8. How does fully trusting Jesus lead to freedom rather than guilt or fear?
9. How can we extend grace and forgiveness to others, just as Jesus has done for us?
10. What practical steps can you take to shift your focus from personal achievement to glorifying Christ?

Family or Group Discussion Prompts:

The Universality of Sin

Discuss how everyone, regardless of their background, faces temptation and moral failures. Share personal experiences (age-appropriate) where individuals recognized their mistakes and sought forgiveness. How does this make us all equal before God?

Understanding Conviction and Redemption

Talk about the role of the Holy Spirit in convicting us of sin. How do we recognize when God is prompting us to change? How does redemption through Christ bring peace and assurance?

Biblical Stories of Sin, Repentance, and Salvation

- **Paul's transformation (Philippians 3:7-9)** – How did Paul shift from boasting in his accomplishments to placing his trust in Jesus?
- **The thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43)** – What does this teach us about salvation through faith alone?
- **John the Baptist (John 3:30)** – How does his statement, "He must increase; I must decrease," reflect our call to humility?
- **Jesus washing the disciples' feet (John 13:12-17)** – What does true servanthood and humility look like?
- **The widow's offering (Mark 12:41-44)** – How does sacrificial giving reflect our trust in God?
- **The prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)** – What does this parable teach us about repentance, grace, and the Father's love?
- **Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus (Luke 19:1-10)** – How does meeting Jesus lead to real-life transformation?
- **Peter's denial and restoration (John 21:15-19)** – How does Jesus show mercy even after our failures?

Section 2: Engaging Hands-On Activities

Activity 1: The Stained Cloth Experiment

Objective: Illustrate how sin stains our lives and the cleansing power of Jesus' sacrifice.

Materials Needed:

- White cloth or paper
- Washable markers or paint
- Bowl of water and soap

Instructions:

1. Give each participant a piece of white cloth or paper, symbolizing purity.
2. Ask them to write or draw sins or mistakes on the cloth using markers or paint.
3. Discuss how these marks represent the way sin affects our lives.
4. Submerge the cloth in soapy water, illustrating how Jesus' sacrifice cleanses us completely.
5. Reflect on how this symbolizes forgiveness and restoration.

Activity 2: The Mirror of Truth

Objective: Encourage self-reflection and acknowledgment of personal weaknesses.

Materials Needed:

- Small mirrors
- Dry-erase markers
- Wipes or cloth

Instructions:

1. Provide each participant with a mirror and a dry-erase marker.
2. Ask them to write down attitudes or actions they struggle with (e.g., pride, impatience, dishonesty).
3. Discuss how recognizing these flaws is the first step toward seeking change.
4. Wipe the mirrors clean, symbolizing the renewal offered through Jesus.
5. End with a prayer for strength and guidance in overcoming struggles.

Activity 3: The Bridge to Salvation

Objective: Demonstrate how Jesus is the only way to reconciliation with God.

Materials Needed:

- Large poster board or whiteboard
- Markers
- Toy figures or drawings representing people

Instructions:

1. Draw two cliffs on opposite sides, labeling one "Humanity" and the other "God."
2. Explain how sin creates a gap between us and God.
3. Draw a cross between the two cliffs, illustrating that Jesus is our bridge.
4. Use toy figures or drawings to visually show how faith in Christ connects us to God.
5. Discuss what it means to walk in faith daily, trusting in Jesus rather than our own efforts.



Challenge of the Week:

Encourage participants to identify one area in their lives where they recognize a need for change or growth. Have them commit to:

- Praying for transformation in that area.
- Seeking biblical guidance through daily scripture reading.
- Practicing humility by apologizing or making amends where needed.
- Journaling about their journey toward surrendering that area to God.

Social Media Engagement: Encourage participants to share a creative expression of what they learned—whether through art, journaling, or a testimony—using #MyNeedForASavior.



Final Reflection and Prayer:

1. Thank God for His grace and the gift of Jesus as our Savior.
2. Pray for a heart open to conviction and transformation.
3. Ask for guidance in living a life that reflects humility and dependence on Christ.

