Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Some people are saying, “Sin is an __________ word” and should be dropped from our vocabulary. Today we’re going to talk about sin, something that affects ______ of us.

The Bible is the ______ important book that you’ll ever read. It’s the ______ book that tells you where you came from, why you’re here, and what will happen after death. Scripture reveals God’s ______ for mankind and how He’s dealt with our problem of sin. God’s desire for all men is that they be ______ from sin and live with Him eternally. Sin, however, keeps us from ______ life. The Bible reveals the answer to sin and how we can live eternally with God.

Some people ______ using the word “sinner” is offensive and a hindrance to Christianity. Some ______ that Jesus never called anyone a sinner. Several years ago, Dr. Karl Menninger saw this __________ in attitude in American people and he wrote the book, Whatever Became of Sin? More recently John MacArthur wrote the book, The Vanishing Conscience. Both of these men realized that many had grown callous about their sin and had decided to ___________ the concept of sin altogether.

Does sin really exist? What does the __________ say about sin? What does it _______ to be a sinner? What’s the big deal about sin anyway? Is sin really so offensive that a person will spend an eternity ______ without God? Should we ever call anyone a sinner? In a politically _______ world, some have banned the word “sin” as being offensive. But, is the word “sin” really so _______ that we should never mention it? I realize some folks don’t want to hear about it, but sin is a real ___________! Ignoring sin won’t make it go away and it won’t turn something that is ________ into something that’s ________.

Our reading today comes from the letter of James 1:13-16. The word “sin” is certainly a Biblical term. It’s used ______ times in the New Testament alone; and the word “sinner” is used an additional ______ times. The Bible also uses other terms when speaking of sin. Sin is sometimes described as an “error,” “iniquity,” “unrighteousness,” an “evil,” a “trespass,” or a “transgression.” Sin is not some _______ thing that one can ignore or dismiss. You’ll never find sin taken __________ in Scripture. You’ll never find Jesus ___________ that sin is an outdated word. In fact, every time Jesus thought about sin, he called for ______________. He recognized that sin was ________.

You can hardly understand the __________ of Jesus without talking about sin. When Mary was with child, the angel told Joseph, “she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their _______” (Matthew 1:21). When John the Baptist
introduced Jesus, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the _____ of the world!” (John 1:29). More than seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah. He spoke about Jesus and how Jesus would ______ our transgressions.

Read Isaiah 53:5-6. Jesus died a cruel, ugly death upon a cross so that we might be ______ from sin. His suffering brought us forgiveness, grace, and peace. To suggest that sin is an unimportant word makes a ___________ of what Jesus did on the cross for you and for me. It suggests that we don’t need His __________.

Sadly, some people don’t realize just how _______ sin truly is. Sin has caused much of our greatest _______ and has wasted countless lives. Sin, of some sort or another, is at the root of every _______ and every violent act; it’s brought so much guilt and shame, and so much pain. Calling sin “outdated” doesn’t make it outdated. Relabeling sin only shows the __________ of the one who makes this claim. God takes note of sin whether we do or not. When men sin, they sin against God—they _______ God. Sin is not merely a transgression against the law; it’s a transgression against God’s law and God Himself, and it breaks his heart! There is no “victimless” sin for _______ is always the victim.

Some people think of sin as something somebody ______ does. Nearly everyone can point to someone they think is a _______ sinner than themselves. But everyone sins. Paul said, “for _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Every person who reaches the age where he knows about God, and he knows about right and wrong, comes to that point where he acts in __________ of God’s law and so sins. We all stand guilty before God.

Some people have categories of sin. They think “_______” sins are really bad, but “_______” sins are no big deal. Or they figure _______ commit the big sins, while they themselves only commit little ones. But all sins are bad. All sins transgress God’s law and break God’s _______. All sins go against His _______ for our lives. Paul said, “the wages of sin is _______” (Romans 6:23), and that hasn’t changed. When he talks about death, he’s talking about ___________ death, that is separation from God and from His grace.

Isaiah 59:1-2 explains, “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a ___________ between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.” When people persist in sin they build this ___________ between themselves and God. This barrier means that God no longer ___________, that one doesn’t stand in His grace and receive His blessing.

Some people still don’t think they’ve sinned. However, John said, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, then he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, why we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:8-10). People tend to _____ to themselves about many things. Some ignore warnings about the _______; others ignore warnings about their _______.


When your sins aren’t forgiven, they will _______ you your soul. Sin is no joke. Read what Jesus said in Matthew 16:26-27. Some people ___________ about sin, but no one will be laughing when Jesus comes again. Then they will weep with regret that they didn’t _________ their lives and come to the Lord.

Sin not only has eternal consequences, it also creates __________ in this life. Sin deceives and hardens people’s __________. Read Hebrews 3:12-13. Most people sin because they think it _______ good, or because it’s pleasurable; but in the end sin will __________ your heart and hurt you. It’s deceptive and it’s cruel. Sin will make a person desert every member of his family just to feed a __________.

We generally think of taking drugs or getting drunk as addictive and destructive behaviors, but actually ___ _____ become addictive and destructive. A person can become _______ to lying, to gossip, to stealing, to anger, to sexual sins, and even to violence. These behaviors not only hurt the person who does them, they also hurt _______ people. How many families have been destroyed or impoverished because somebody thought they could sin and get away with it. The prisons are _______ of people who thought they could get away with their sins, or people who knew they’d someday get caught but wouldn’t give up their sins.

There is an unalterable _______ in Scripture about the life we choose to live, and you can’t cheat this law or change it. You can’t wish it away or ignore it. Read Galatians 6:7-8. When a writer says, “Do not be deceived,” it’s usually because people _______ themselves and _______ to themselves about the lives that they’re living.

Oh, I hope you’re not ___________ yourself, thinking that you can live an immoral lifestyle and avoid any consequences. You simply can’t. Sometimes those consequences are physical diseases if you _______ your body. Sometimes they are shortened life if you commit _______. Sometimes sin _______ families and __________ friendships. Sometimes sin enslaves us financially with heavy _______ like gambling does. The choices that you make today may _______ you far more than you ever dreamed in your health; or the spiritual drain in guilt, in money and friendships. My friend, if you continue in sin, you won’t be the exception. You will someday _______ what you _______.

The prodigal son wanted his inheritance, and he wanted it so that he could waste it on his ___________. That’s what a prodigal is, one who _______ his resources with reckless living. You remember the story. Read Luke 15:14-16. I tell you, when you live a selfish, sinful lifestyle, the time comes when you run out of _______. Selfish people are friends only when they see some ___________. As long as the prodigal son paid the bill, he had friends.

It was only when the prodigal son was desperate and alone that he began to _______ _______ about sin. Continue reading Luke 15:17-19. Sin _______ the senses, but reality _______ us up. Sin makes a person feel _______ in his own eyes. He no longer felt _______ to be called a son of his father.
While sin _______ only to shame and guilt, the wonderful thing is how much God loves us even in our sin and guilt. **Continue reading Luke 15:20-24.** God _______ when his prodigal children come home. He _______ to meet his ragged, dirty, but penitent son. He embraced and kissed him. It was a time of celebration, for his son was now _______ and found! God wants to _______ you, too. Sin will hurt you and embarrass you; but God still _______ for you because He loves you. No matter what your past has been, God wants to _______ you as you turn away from the old evil life and come home to Him. God’s love is _______ than our sin.

**Read what Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:12-16.** My friend, there is _______ for you. If you’ll _______ in the Lord, if you’ll _______ of your sins, if you’ll _______ His name, if you’ll be _______ (immersed in water) for the forgiveness of your sins, you too will become a _______ of God and a member of the Lord’s _______. The prodigal son came home; Saul of Tarsus came home. They found forgiveness, and so can you.

We’ve seen that sin matters; it’s not trivial. Scripture tells us that unresolved sin costs people their _______. You remember Paul said, “The wages of sin is death.” Here, “death” is a reference to separation from _______ which lasts for eternity. Don’t let Satan or the world _______ you into believing that sin is no big deal. It’s the critical _______ to your soul and will cost you everything when Jesus comes again if it’s left unforgiven. If sin weren’t such a big deal, Jesus would never have gone to such great lengths to _______ for your sins by his cruel death on the cross. Sin is not trivial when you consider the _______ of Christ. Jesus didn’t die for a petty, unimportant problem. He died for you because your sins are the greatest _______ that you face.

When you consider the Lord’s _______, you can readily see His love. There’s no _______ love that a man can have than to lay down his _______ for his friends. That’s what Jesus did for you. He wanted you to be _______ from sin and to _______ with Him eternally in heaven. “The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is _______ in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Forgiveness is a _______ from God; and I would hate for you never to know how much God loves you and wants to _______ you. If God takes sin and your soul that seriously, shouldn’t you take it seriously? Don’t let anything keep you from having _______ the blessings of the Lord? Love Him, _______ Him, and _______ Him.

To become a Christian, _______ Jesus Christ is the Son of God, _______ of sin that separates you from God, _______ Jesus before others, and be _______ into Christ. Baptism is an immersion in water for the _______ of sins. You’ll never regret obeying the Lord. So, do it today!