

PBC Growing in Christ

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March 28, 2021

Class Norms

A large black cross silhouette stands in a field of dry grass under a blue sky with light clouds. The cross is the central focus, with its vertical post and horizontal arms clearly visible against the sky. The field in the foreground is filled with dry, brownish grass, and the sky is a mix of deep blue and lighter blue with some wispy clouds.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

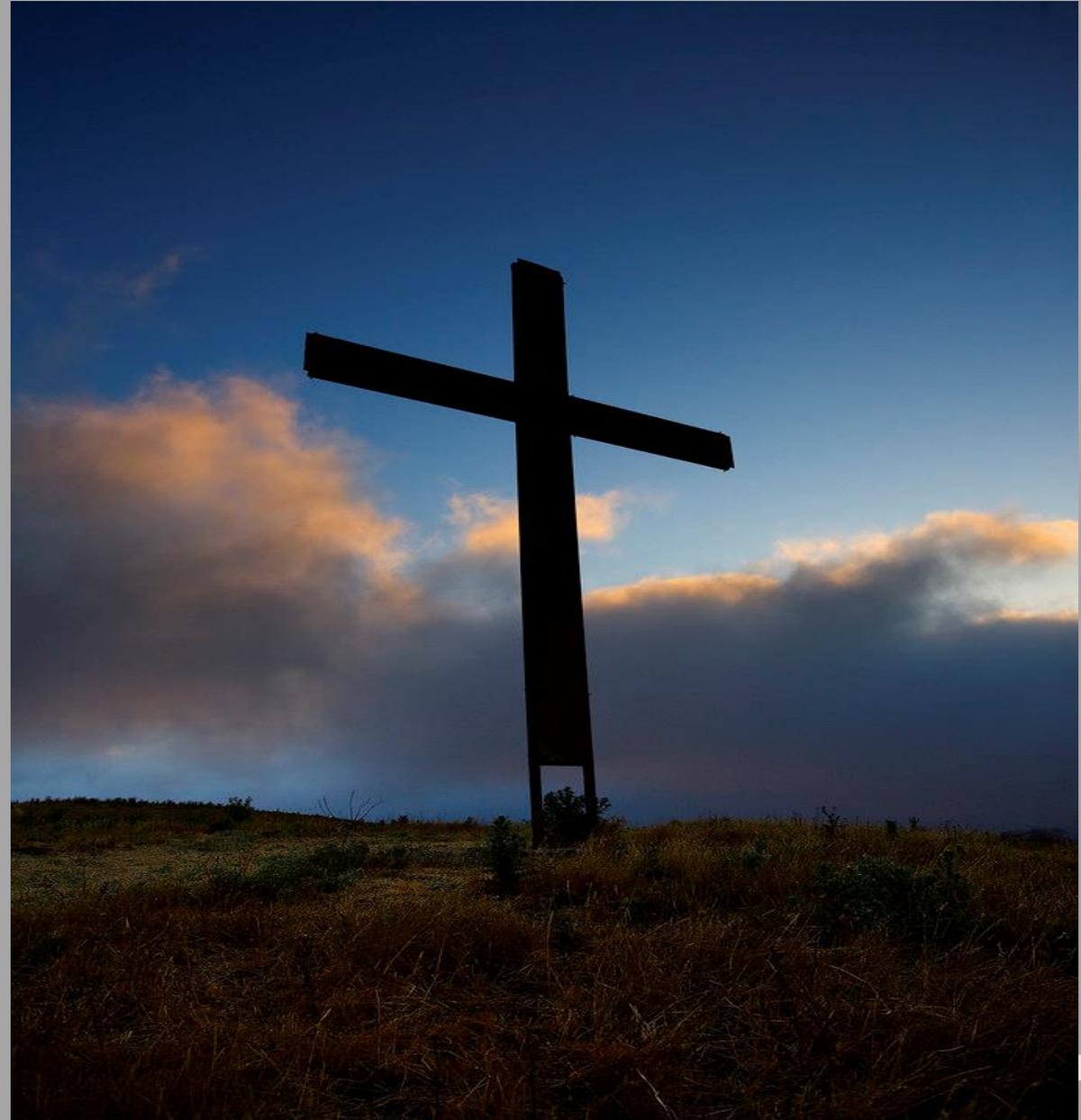
Growing in Christ

- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



Growing in Christ

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)





The Nature of Sin

Isaiah 59:1-13

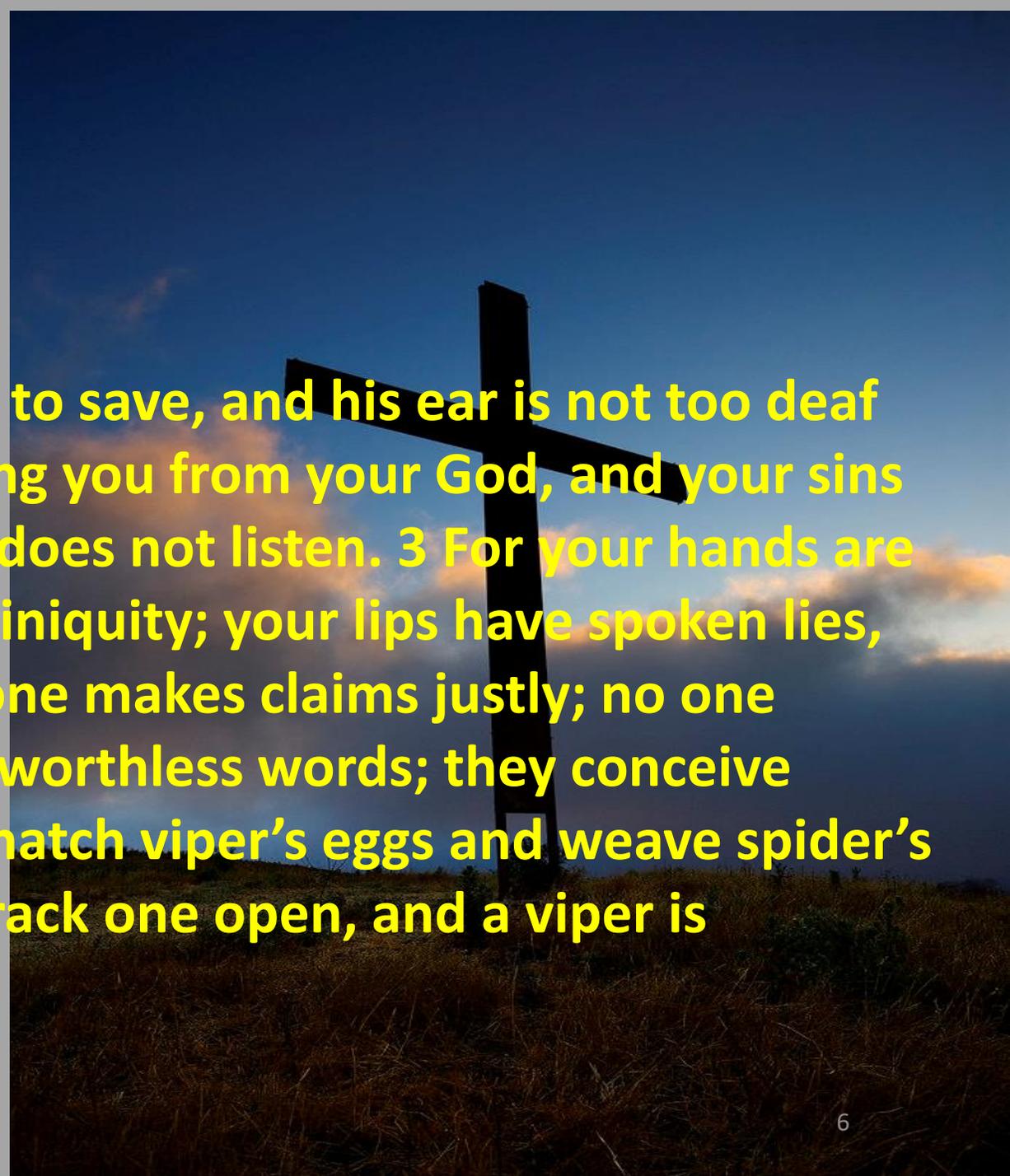
What's an early memory of being punished for doing something wrong?

Scripture

The Nature of Sin

Isaiah 59:1-5

1 Indeed, the LORD's arm is not too weak to save, and his ear is not too deaf to hear. 2 But your iniquities are separating you from your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not listen. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers, with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, and your tongues mutter injustice. 4 No one makes claims justly; no one pleads honestly. They trust in empty and worthless words; they conceive trouble and give birth to iniquity. 5 They hatch viper's eggs and weave spider's webs. Whoever eats their eggs will die; crack one open, and a viper is hatched.





The Nature of Sin Isaiah 59:1-5

What do you find most striking in these verses? Why?

How did you become aware of your own sin?



The Nature of Sin

Isaiah 59:1-5

- Sin offends God and separates us from him. Because of our sin, He hides His face from us.
- Sin is what we do when we place our desires, our agendas, ourselves above God. By eating what God said not to eat, we are placing our choice ahead of God, and to place anything ahead of God is rebellion. But the issue was far greater than it might appear on the surface. The issue was their disobedience.
- First, their hands were covered with blood and their fingers were soaked in iniquity.
 - This speaks to acts of violence and deception against others.
- Second, their lips were filled with lies and their tongues mutter injustice.
 - The people had built their lives and relationships on a foundation of dishonesty.

Scripture

The Nature of Sin

Isaiah 59:6-8

6 Their webs cannot become clothing, and they cannot cover themselves with their works. Their works are sinful works, and violent acts are in their hands. 7 Their feet run after evil, and they rush to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are sinful thoughts; ruin and wretchedness are in their paths. 8 They have not known the path of peace, and there is no justice in their ways. They have made their roads crooked; no one who walks on them will know peace.



The Nature of Sin Isaiah 59:6-8

What are the some common ways people try to cover their sinfulness?

Why are good works not the answer to the problem?



The Nature of Sin

Isaiah 59:6-8

- No one can cover themselves with their works. Even if they had righteous lives, their works still would not satisfy God. But Israel's works were not righteous. Isaiah called them sinful and violent.
- The picture Isaiah painted goes against how most people view themselves. Most people won't deny they have made mistakes and done things they shouldn't have, but they see themselves as basically good people. We've laid the road we walk on—and we can't straighten it!

Scripture

The Nature of Sin

Isaiah 59:9-13

9 Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We hope for light, but there is darkness; for brightness, but we live in the night. 10 We grope along a wall like the blind; we grope like those without eyes. We stumble at noon as though it were twilight; we are like the dead among those who are healthy. 11 We all growl like bears and moan like doves. We hope for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us. 12 For our transgressions have multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us. For our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities: 13 transgression and deception against the LORD, turning away from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering lying words from the heart.



The Nature of Sin

Isaiah 59:9-13

What makes the images in these verses an effective way to describe our lives in sin?

How have you experienced the futility of trying to deal with your sin by yourself?



The Nature of Sin

Isaiah 59:9-13

- Before coming to faith in Christ, we're all enslaved to sin, spiritually dead, and in possession of a debt far greater than we can pay on our own.
- On our own, we were less than powerless. We were blind people stumbling down the street, dead people with no hope for revival. But God decided that something had to change, and since none of us could do it ourselves, He did. It was God who delivered a way for us to be free of the debt of our sin.
- Without salvation from the sin that infests our hearts, we are completely without hope. But His intervention breathed hope and life into our dismal condition.



GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

MARCH 21, 2021,

- **Confess your sin.** Society and culture often overlook or dismiss certain sins. Ask God to show you where you're falling short of His perfect standard, not society's imperfect one. Confess your sin to Him and ask for forgiveness.
- **Plan ahead.** Evaluate where you're most prone to give in to temptation. Being tempted isn't sin, but it can easily lead to sin. Create some safeguards to help you avoid temptation in the first place.
- **Be accountable.** Reach out to one or two believers (of the same gender) in whom you can confide. Talk through areas where you feel weak and ask them to hold you accountable and walk with you, so you won't fall into sin.



Final thoughts about The Nature of Sin

- God acts in the best interests of those who follow Him. Even when things don't make sense in our minds, He is working for our benefit and His glory.
- The old saying reminds us that if we feel farther away from God, it's because we've moved, not Him.
- Before coming to faith in Christ, we're all in possession of a debt far greater than we can pay on our own. Though we will never attain a sinless life, with the help of the Holy Spirit and those around us, we can identify the spots where we need help and take bigger steps toward living in a way that honors God.

Resources

- [BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth](#)
- Bible.com





Next Week: March 28, 2021
The Death of Jesus

THE POINT

**FORGIVENESS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE
JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS.**

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 19:8-11,16B-18,28-30

**WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN FRUSTRATED BY
YOUR INABILITY TO FIX SOMETHING?**



Bible Study Session Date of Essentials of Christianity

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | March 7, 2021 | The Nature of God | John 14:8-11,16-20,23-26 |
| 2 | March 14, 2021 | The Purpose of Humanity | Genesis 1:1-5,26-31 |
| 3 | March 21, 2021 | The Nature of Sin | Isaiah 59:1-13 |
| 4 | March 28, 2021 | The Death of Jesus | John 19:8-11,16b-18,28-30 |
| 5 | April 4, 2021 | The Resurrection of Jesus | John 20:3-9,19-23,27-29 |
| 6 | April 11, 2021 | The Work of the Holy Spirit | John 15:26-27; 16:7-15 |
| 7 | April 18, 2021 | The Return of Jesus | Matthew 24:3-8,29-32,42-44 |



God Bless You!

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