

## Activity For Confession One

Step One:

*Say to the kids...*

You have been assigned to be an undercover reporter on the school newspaper. Take five minutes to write down all the "bad stuff" you overheard and saw that happened at school this week.

Be sure to include things like, disobeying teachers, cheating on school work, comments made about others, and any "really bad stuff."

Remember you are undercover—no one will know it was you who wrote about this stuff!

In fact, you can include your "bad stuff" here too!

*After the kids have finished, you can break them into groups to share, or immediately review answers and make a chart of some of the stuff that happened.(Either way, do a group review and make a chart!)*

Step Two:

*Read together Pastor Mike's Section on "sin."*

Step Three:

*Say...*

Pastor Mike says sin is treating someone, or the earth, like it's inferior to you...like it's a "thing." It's also anytime we ignore what God wants.

*Then, go back through your list and look at how each of the things listed there is a "sin" using Pastor Mike's ideas as a guide.*

*Need more to do? Look at the response sheet for ideas! m*

## Confession

### Section One—What? Me Sin?

#### Part One: Prayer/Readings

**Prayer:** Gracious God, as we begin this study we are reminded of something very important—we are NOT perfect. Not even close. Not by a long shot. And yet, Lord, you have created us and love us. Help us to remember that you are always forgiving us and loving us through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

**Readings:** (You may ask a different family member to do each reading.)

1. In my midnight confession,  
When I tell all the world that I love you  
In my midnight confession  
When I say all the things that I want to—  
I love you

*"Midnight Confession" by The Grass Roots*

2. For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
If I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

*Psalm 51: 16-18*

#### Part Two: What? Me Sin?

**Discuss:** What is sin? What is it really?

#### Read:

Martin Luther lived in a time when people were consumed with their "sinfulness," and convinced that they had to be saved from God's anger to get to heaven.

Our world today sends mixed messages about sin. "Sin" is almost always thought of as "physical" or sexual in nature. Sins like greed are ignored and even sometimes called "good things" ("if you can get lots of money for doing something, then you should!"). Many people feel that, if they really, really want something or want to do something in their life then that makes it "OK"—even if they end up hurting others.

What is sin, really? I think a good way to look at sin is this: "Anytime you treat a person as inferior to you, you're sinning. Anytime you abuse the earth and treat it as less important than you, you're sinning. Anytime you ignore God, you're sinning."

Want to make your girlfriend jealous by pretending to be interested in someone else? You're treating both your girlfriend and the other person like "things" instead of like people. You are sinning.

What if you need a bird's nest for a science project and you find one with eggs in it? What if you dump the eggs and take the nest? Again, you've treated those eggs like "things" and not as beings in their own right. You are sinning.

Not all of our sins are this obvious, but we hurt others anytime we lie, cheat, or take more than we need. This is sin. And, as most of us know, when we look into our hearts, it's really hard not to sin.

How do we sin against God? Anytime we sin against God's people or creatures, we sin against their creator. Anytime we fail to be thankful to God, ignore God or God's commands we sin against our creator. Again, if we look into our hearts, we know it's really hard not to sin.

What? Me sin? Yeah, we all do.

And that is why we admit it, we confess. That's pretty much what confession is: admitting it and being truly sorry for it.

We'll get to "why" this is such a good idea next time.

