

LIFE Group Guide  
Sin  
May 5, 2019  
II Kings 17:7-23



**Prayer Request:** Thank the Father for his justice, and his rejection of sin. Thank the Father for the work of the Son, who defeats sin and frees us from its power. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to live lives of righteousness through the putting to death of sin.

**Icebreaker Question(s):** What questions do you have about the story of the Bible as a result of OPEN?

**Read II Kings 17:6-23:**

<sup>6</sup> In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

<sup>7</sup> And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods <sup>8</sup> and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. <sup>9</sup> And the people of Israel did secretly against the LORD their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. <sup>10</sup> They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, <sup>11</sup> and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the LORD carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the LORD to anger, <sup>12</sup> and they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, “You shall not do this.” <sup>13</sup> Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.”

<sup>14</sup> But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God. <sup>15</sup> They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them that they should not do like them. <sup>16</sup> And they abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made for themselves metal images of two calves; and they made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. <sup>17</sup> And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger. <sup>18</sup> Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

<sup>19</sup> Judah also did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced. <sup>20</sup> And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

<sup>21</sup> When he had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD and made them commit great sin. <sup>22</sup> The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, <sup>23</sup> until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.

### **Sermon Outline:**

#### **Five observations about sin.**

- 1. God Defines Sin (II Kings 17:1-2)**
- 2. God Identifies Resistance to Himself as the Root of all Sin (II Kings 17:7)**
- 3. God Holds the World Accountable for Sin (II Kings 17:15-17)**
  - i. Twelve specific indictments of Israel's sin.
  - ii. The Justice of God (Rev. 20:12)
  - iii. The Patience of God
- 4. God's Work Continues Despite Sin (v. 24-41)**
- 5. God Sent His Son to Save Us From Sin (I Kings 17:35, Matthew 1:21)**

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. As you heard the word of God preached or read, what did the Holy Spirit remind you of, challenge you with, convict you of, or encourage you in? Did you have any questions or was anything unclear?
2. What has been your "working" understanding of sin? How do other people you know understand sin?
3. Why is important that God defines what sin is? How can we know what He considers sin?
4. Read II Kings 17:6-23. The people were conquered and deported to Assyria. Why?
5. Why is resistance to God ultimately the root of all sin?
6. How did God show both his justice and his patience towards Israel? How has God shown his justice and patience to you in your life?
7. What does this passage show us about God's anger? What difference does it make that God is "provoked" to anger, rather than being angry as part of his nature?
8. How does Jesus free us from the power of sin, empowering us to live a godly life of righteousness?
9. Where in life do you most need the Holy Spirit's power to live a life of godliness and righteousness?

**Prayer:** Our Father, we thank you for the work of Jesus Christ, the Son, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. We thank you that by his wounds we have been healed. We confess that we were straying like sheep, but we rejoice that through Christ's work we have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Son. By the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (*Adapted from I Peter 2:24-25*).