

## Defining Sin Answer Key

### Rebellion

How does this concept from the Old Testament define *sin*?

*The concept of rebellion defines sin as actions or attitudes that disobey or go against God, rebelling against God in thoughts or actions.*

Write down a Scripture verse(s) that gives an example of sin as rebellion. Include the Scripture citation.

*Answers may include one of the following, or other biblical examples:*

- *Adam and Eve's disobedience of God's wishes in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:1–6)*
- *The Israelites grumble against God in the desert (Exodus 16:2)*
- *The Israelites worship a golden calf (Exodus, chapter 32)*

What is the motivation for rebellion against God?

*People rebel against God because they want life to be different than it is, they want God to be different than he is, and they want to feel "in control" of their lives.*

What are the consequences of rebellion against God?

*The consequences of rebellion against God are lawless societies that disregard or endanger human life and dignity, feeling unfulfilled or angry, and doubt in God's goodness.*

### Missing the Mark

How does this concept from the Old Testament define *sin*?

*Failing in the attempt to live according to God's will as a result of lack of commitment, low moral standards, influence of outside sources, and so on.*

Write down a Scripture verse(s) that gives an example of sin as missing the mark. Include the Scripture citation.

*Answers may include one of the following, or other biblical examples:*

- *Gideon's golden idol (Judges 8:27)*
- *Samson breaks the Law (Judges 14:1–16:19)*
- *Samuel's sons act wrongly (1 Samuel 8:3)*
- *King David commits adultery and arranges for the woman's husband to be killed (2 Samuel, chapter 11)*
- *King Solomon marries foreign women and worships their gods (1 Kings 11:1–10)*

What are the motivations for missing the mark that God sets for us?

*We miss the mark due to unconscious inclinations to act wrongly, when sin takes on a life of its own within us.*

What are the consequences of missing the mark that God sets for us?

*The consequences of missing the mark are committing actions that do not reflect our true desires, acting impulsively, and regret.*



## Trespass or Transgression against God's Law

How does this concept from both the Old and New Testaments define *sin*?

*The concept of trespass or transgression defines sin as "actions that cross a boundary established by God and break the natural law written in our hearts."*

Write down a biblical verse(s) that gives an example of sin as trespass or transgression. Include the biblical citation.

*Answers may include the following or other biblical examples:*

- *Woman caught in adultery (both adultery and the punishment of stoning are sins that "cross the boundaries" of God's natural law) (John 8:1–11)*

What are motivations for transgressing against God's Law?

*Some motivations for transgressing against God's Law are the desire for control over our own life or over others' lives, the desire for instant happiness, and the desire to prove that we can choose what is good for ourselves without God's help.*

What are the consequences of lawless communities?

*Some of the consequences of lawless communities are that the people do not live according to God's plan for humanity and that people continue to sin against God and against one another.*

## Light and Truth versus Darkness and Sin

Why is darkness a meaningful metaphor for sin?

*Darkness is a meaningful metaphor for sin because it indicates the secret and shameful nature of sin, which moves us away from God.*

Write down a biblical verse(s) that gives an example of sin as darkness or the distortion of truth. Include the biblical citation.

*Answers may include one of the following, or other biblical examples:*

- *The sins of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:20–21)*
- *The "seven woes" of the Pharisees, who follow the letter of the Law but not its true intent (Matthew 23:13–36)*

Why is every sin a lie against truth?

*Every sin is a lie against truth because sin and evil pretend to lead to happiness, when in reality only following God's Law and living in truth can lead to true lasting happiness.*

What are the consequences of choosing the darkness of sin over the light of truth?

*Some of the consequences of choosing the darkness of sin over the light of truth are separation from God, experiencing false happiness, and believing that we do not need God.*

