

# Leaders Guide

## Session 2: 4 Bad Words

Satan, Evil, Sin, Hell – not many people like to talk about these words and some try to avoid bringing them into their beliefs at all. We want to show that they are an integral part of the Christian faith and if you exclude them, then what we presented last week doesn't make sense any longer and you are left with even bigger unanswered questions about God.

We actually introduced 3 of the words last week (Evil, Sin, Hell) and we show a good short video that discusses Sin & also gives a review of what we discussed in Session 1. We describe Satan, a fallen angel, and how evil began in him and how he deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Many people feel these are childish beliefs, but they actually provide important answers to the problem of evil. If you dismiss them, then the alternatives usually point towards God and his character. This can be even more damaging to our faith as people have an uneasy doubt as to God's perfect goodness in the back of their minds. And when you doubt God's goodness, you keep God at a distance and avoid going too deep in relationship with Him.

We described Heaven as the absence of all Evil last week, but how do we get access to Heaven if we are not perfect? We must be transformed by the Holy Spirit. This process begins here on earth and is perfected when we reach Heaven. In this way, we retain our free-will, since we must first realize that we need God's help and then ask for Jesus' salvation, then the Holy Spirit begins this transformation. So, Christianity is not only about getting into Heaven (although that will be amazing), it is mostly about entering into a relationship with God which begins now on this earth. And we have a God who understands what life is like here and who gives us the Holy Spirit to help us and to give us power to love others better.

Also, how do we explain when bad things happen to good people? Jesus is the human face of God and he suffered, so we worship a God who isn't remote and who does understand the human predicament and in whom we can find comfort. Without Jesus, God is remote and uncaring.

There are more questions than you will have time to discuss, so pick the ones that you think are most applicable for your group or that you are most interested in.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What is something new that you learned or that stood out to you?
- Did you have any thoughts from the The Bible Project video Khata – “Sin”?
- Do you agree with the video’s definition of sin as “*the failure to love God and others by not treating them with the honor they deserve*”? Do you believe that people sin today?
- Satan and Adam & Eve were all presented as real beings as they help to explain how Evil began and how sin entered the human race. How do you think about it? Do you have any alternative explanations? What do they imply about God’s character?
- Do you think there is real evidence to suggest that Satan exists? ...that Adam & Eve existed?
- Were you surprised to hear that God only had one rule for Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden? What does that tell you about God?
- The role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christ followers was described (Galatians 5:22-25) in this session. Did you have any thoughts or reactions about this?
- Hell is described as the absence of God. Do you think some people who reject God would prefer that to Heaven? Is there anything else God could have done for these people?
- Do you think some people approach God for a relationship only because they want a comfortable life and then get disappointed when they suffer? Is it even possible not to suffer while living in this earth? Does knowing that God in Jesus lived a normal life on earth provide any comfort to you?
- Some Christians reject these bad words and live with a lot of unanswered questions about Evil and God’s character, but how might this impact a Christian’s spiritual life?
- Did you have any other thoughts or reactions from what was shared?
- Do you have any additional questions?