“Sin nature” and “Sins”

Romans 5:12-14 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

Psalms 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

John 9:34 To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says Jesus was made to be sin for us. How did He do this?

Even though it is just how we are (our nature) this sin does not excuse us from being:

Romans 8:23 Sin, according to Romans 8:13 are the of our sinful nature.

What are some of the misdeeds (sins) listed in Galatians 5:19-21?

Sins are just the outward symptoms of a sinful nature.

According to James 2:10, how many sins can you get away with before you are guilty of breaking the law?

When we speak of the sinful nature or “original sin” we are not saying that a person has ever done anything wrong (sinned: a deed). The misunderstanding of these two terms often leads us to wonder about God’s justice if He can condemn to hell those people who have never done anything wrong.

Romans 3:23 “…for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

The Bible (Romans 3:23) makes it quite clear that no one escapes the wages of sin. You are condemned as a sinner just by being a fallen human being. A person can only be save by consciously accepting Christ as their savior.

Before we go on to page two keep this in mind: To hold a belief as true it must conform to scripture. If we find that we have a belief that is clearly contradicted by the Bible we must change our belief, no matter how unjust it seems to be.
The thought that God could condemn an innocent baby to the fires of hell is simply too hard to reconcile with our belief in a “loving” God.

The doctrine of infant salvation appears to require that children are conceived saved, then remain saved until they reach a certain age, at which point they become lost. But scripture teaches we’re conceived lost and remain lost until we become saved.

That’s the bad news. Here’s the good news:

Psalms 51:4 - God never makes mistakes.

Romans 8:38-39 says nothing can separate God from his children.

Psalms 139:16 says God knows us and everything we’re going to do even before we are born.

Our salvation is known before we are born.

Ephesians 1:4-6 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Matthew 19:14 and 18:10 tells of Jesus’ special love for kids.

Matthew 19:14 and 18:10 “See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

Matthew 21:16 “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise’?”

Acts 16:31-34 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

For these reasons I believe that all those intended for heaven will be in heaven. Beyond that it is not my place to draw conclusions or to hazard judgments.

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Randy Alcorn, Heaven. Copyright 2004, by Eternal Perspective Ministries, page 340
Lesson Plan: Sin nature & sins; infant salvation

The Goal:
The goal of this lesson is to give the kids all of the Biblical support to both sides of the issue concerning infant salvation. Hopefully they will then be able to create an informed opinion of their own.

Preparation:
Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. You might want to teach this as two separate lessons. Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you’d like to bring up.

Download and read Randy Alcorn’s article from his website Eternal Perspective Ministries at this URL: http://www.epm.org/artman2/publish/eternity_children/Do_infants_go_to_heaven_when_they_die.shtml

Pre-Lesson Activity:
Sometimes I play “Simon says” to illustrate James 2:10 that messing up just once and you’re done.

Leading the lesson:
Have a kid read the first set of verses. Make sure they understand all of the words and the meaning of the verse. You may have to restate the verse in your own words a second time.

Ask the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers. If your group is younger teens have them fill in the blanks. If your group is mainly High School age just use the questions as discussion starters.

Unlike most of my lessons there are only a few blanks to be filled in. This is because of the sensitivity of the subject. After they read the verse, read the statement of the matching color that refers to the verse. Go slowly and give them time to reflect.

You might also bring a copy of Randy Alcorn’s book where the quote come from as well as a copy of his article

Summary:
Finish by reading Isaiah 55:8-9. This may be a verse overused by lazy Christians who don’t want to do the work of digging into a tough subject. However, not all issues require us to take a firm (often divisive) stance one way or the other. I believe this may be one of those issues where this verse applies.

Take Prayer Requests:
Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Ask them about their concerns from the previous week. Write down specific concerns so you can follow up with them.