

The Ishbane Conspiracy

Dealing with Sin pt.1

Ice Breaker/Game:

Book Study:

Dealing with Sin: True Repentance

Time: about 60-90 minutes

Students will learn about the themes of "The Ishbane Conspiracy" by Randy Alcorn, more specifically how to deal with the sin in their life and what it means to really repent from sin.

Supplies: Bibles, *The Ishbane Conspiracy* by Randy Alcorn, rubber bands, and copies of the question Handout.

Start the study out with a small group discussion of the students' reactions and insights of chapters 16-18. **(15 min)**

Ask: **What stood out to you in chapters 19-21?**

What part of the story did you identify with this week?

What do you think about the "truth is relative" argument on pg.121?

Come back into one big group. **(15 min)**

Say: **Tonight we're going to talk about something all of us have done, many times, to many different people.... Sin. What are we called to do about it?**

Ask: **What is sin?** Allow for answers and discussion.

What are some examples from the book of sin in the character's life?

Say: **Here is a Biblical definition of sin: *Sin is essentially falling short of what God wants us to do. We sin by doing things that don't please God, and we sin by not doing things that God wants us to do***

Ask: **Can you sin by not doing anything?**

Break into 2 groups.

(25 min)

Say: **The first thing that needs to happen in order for you to deal with sin is to recognize that you have sinned. It's a cliché, but in order to fix a problem, you have to recognize that one exists.**

Have a student read *1 John 1:8*.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Say: **According to this Bible verse, if we say we don't sin we're only fooling ourselves.**

Ask: **Is there any good that can come out of trying to fool ourselves?**

Do you think we can fool God?

Say: **The Holy Spirit examines us, as Christians, and will convict us of sin IF we listen to Him.**

Read *John 16:8*

⁸ When he (Holy Spirit) comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Ask: **How do we hear from the Holy Spirit?**

What does the "conviction of the Holy Spirit" feel like to you?

Share a story of when God convicted you of sin and you listened or didn't listen.

Snap-Snap

(Illustration based on Innovative Tools by Group Publishing)

Ask a good-natured student in your group to stand, then lightly snap a rubber band against his or her arm repeatedly, apologizing insincerely each time you do it. Then ask your students to call out some insincere apologies they've heard that you can use so you can keep snapping their friend.

Say: **True repentance is not just a feeling of guilt, but a full turnaround of heart and behavior. If we just say that we are sorry and keep sinning, then we do not have a repentant heart.**

End the group discussion with 2 role playing scenario's where the student gets to "play" the Holy Spirit and the leader is the person that has a repentant heart and one that is sorry but doesn't change.

Ask teenagers to form trios and discuss the following question hand-out: **(20 min)**

What's a time someone (don't name names!) told you he or she was sorry about something, but the offending behavior didn't stop? How did you feel?

Describe a time someone truly repented of something and changed. What was it? How did you feel when you saw it happen?

How easy or difficult is it for you to repent and make changes? Why?

Close in prayer as a big group.