

*Built On a Rock: The Heart of Christianity from Genesis to Revelation*  
Living the Message 2022-2023  
December 2022 Study Guide for Participants and Facilitators

## Missing the Mark: *Sin* with Pastor Lose

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

### Opening Prayer

*Dear God, bless each one who comes to this study. Help us to see ourselves in the story of Adam and Eve that we may be honest about our deepest needs and turn to you to have them met. Amen.*

### Focus Statement

Sin describes both our general human condition of being lost, confused, and insecure, and the particular things we do arising from that insecurity and confusion that damage our relationship with God, with each other, and with creation.

### Key Scripture [Genesis 3](#)

Four important dimensions of the human condition and predicament become apparent through this story in Genesis:

- Humans are created for relationship.
- To be human is to be insecure.
- Human sin is at heart a profound confusion about what we need to feel complete and secure. St. Augustine said we are called to, “Love people, use things,” and we often get those two confused.
- Consequences of sin include the corroding power of fear (Luther) and the deterioration of relationships: with each other, with creation, and with God.

### Questions

1. Read [Genesis 3:1-13](#). What do you notice? What sticks out to you?
2. What is your reaction to defining sin as “missing the mark” or “falling short of the glory of God”? Do these definitions resonate with you? How?
3. Pastor Lose spoke about the difference between sins (plural, lower case s) and Sin (singular, capital S). What is your takeaway from this distinction?
4. In what ways does thinking about the human condition as being fundamentally insecure help you make sense of the world we live in? And if insecurity is at the root of being human, how might we respond to each other in ways that are healing and restorative?
5. What are some of the ways in which we see ourselves and others trying to fill our “God-shaped hole” (our inherent insecurity)? Why do you think we keep trying to do it ourselves?
6. Why is it so hard to trust God? What obstacles do you face trusting God’s plan? What are some of the problems that result from thinking we can fill our deep needs apart from God?

### **Deeper Dive with Pastor Ruud**

*"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."* Romans 7:15

Do you relate? How so?

*"Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong [or sin boldly], but let your trust in Christ be stronger..."* Martin Luther to Melanchthon.

What does this quote from Martin Luther mean to you?

### **Closing Prayer**

*Dear God, you have created us to be in relationship with you and each other and have entrusted us with all of creation. Time and again, we turn away from you and fall short of your aspirations. Help us to better understand the root of our condition, to be honest about our need, and to seek our health and restoration in you. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### **Next Month:**

East of Eden: *Covenant, Law & Community* with Pastor Ruud

In-person presentation Tuesday, January 3, 6:30-7:30pm at Mpls Campus - Room 207

Video emailed out on or before end of day Tuesday, January 3 (one day later due to the holiday)

