

Plummeting from Paradise

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 5**Focus:**

Because of sin, all creation has been messed up.

Lesson 5**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 2:16-17;
3:6-7, 17;
Romans 1:21;
8:20-22

Lesson 5**Memory Verse:**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
—Romans 6:23

Students will consider our various levels of mistakes and the consequences that result.

Materials:

Internet access

Even the best “blow it” sometimes. Our favorite artists, actors, and athletes have stories of how they’ve failed at the very thing they are supposed to be great at. In comedy, this type of failure is often called “bombing.”

“In stand up comedy, to ‘bomb’ is when your performance flops in front of an unsupportive audience. Either the joke was bad or the energy from the audience was negative no matter what, or both. A bomb isn’t good.” (Chris Brogan, 2023)

➤ **Have you ever “bombed” at something you were meant to be good at? What did that feel like? What were the effects?** (Accept all reasonable answers. It may have been a solo, a last-minute shot, a test, or anything else. Maybe they felt their team or someone else was counting on them and they let them down. Maybe others still give them grief over it or it shook their confidence. If students are still hung up on their mistakes, help them to have grace with themselves.)

Sometimes we miss that mark, even if we make a sincere effort or try our best. Sometimes we haven’t tried our best and can learn what to do better next time. When it comes to honest mistakes and everyday slip-ups, we might replay it in our minds for a while, but eventually we can recover and move on. Often the biggest effect is our own embarrassment.

➤ **What is the biggest consequence you have ever faced for a mistake?** (Accept all reasonable answers, which may vary in severity. It could be not making the cut for a program or team, being grounded or a loss of privileges, or it could go deeper such as broken trust or a broken friendship.)

➤ **What is an example of a situation where our mistakes have consequences for others as well?** (Building on the previous question, accept all reasonable answers. Students may cite

slacking on group projects or class efforts; unsafe driving; or words and actions that hurt others affecting their self-esteem, standing within a group, or sense of trust for the short or long term.)

We all make mistakes and all mistakes have consequences. Sometimes the mess will be easier to clean up, and sometimes it leaves a stain. Today we're talking about the second kind—it's the story of humanity's epic fail. The stakes were even higher than performing for royalty and the effects remain with us today.

Source:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/willing-bomb-advice-from-stand-up-comedians-chris-brogan>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

high school



Lesson 5 / September 29, 2024

Plummeting from Paradise

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 5
Focus:

Because of sin, all creation has been messed up.

Lesson 5
Bible Basis:

Genesis 2:16-17;
3:6-7, 17;
Romans 1:21;
8:20-22

Lesson 5
Memory Verse:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
—Romans 6:23

Materials:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

From the moment we are born, we enter a world tainted by sin. This is the world in which we take root and grow. And if originally Adam and Eve were meant to be caretakers of creation, then so are we, messy as the creation may be. Each of us ought to share in taking responsibility for the ways in which sin permeates our neighborhood, our country, and our world, pulling up the weeds by their roots. Sadly, sometimes we don't even notice the sin that surrounds us. But Jesus gives us new eyes to see, so that we can identify where the sin is, and work to uproot it.

➤ **Start with considering your bubble—your friend group, your church, your neighborhood. What sin permeates this community?** (Accept all reasonable answers. This can be challenging, so you might offer suggestions such as greed or gossip, or even a comfort level with racism, sexism, or ableism. We sometimes learn these sins from our family or community or pick up on them without realizing. Sometimes our circumstances and commonalities lead to common struggles.)

➤ **How do you imagine this sin took root? What feeds this sin to keep it growing?** (Accept all reasonable answers. When we share the sin, we make it feel acceptable. When we learn it from a young age, we may think it is normal. When it is uncomfortable or inconvenient to address, we ignore it.)

➤ **What actions can you take this week to begin to pull at the root of the sin?** (Accept all reasonable answers. It may start with talking about it, which can be uncomfortable. It may mean stopping conversations that lead to gossip or jokes that disparage a group of people. It may mean fasting from spending or stuff, or practicing giving instead of greed. It may mean seeking out the voices of the oppressed or neglected, or taking actions that affirm their dignity or meet their needs.)

Distribute supplies (or invite teens to have them ready at home). On their cards, students can write one way they will begin pulling at the roots of sin this week in their sphere of influence.

It can be challenging to deal with sin that is ingrained in our family, friend group, church, or community, but it is the work that a life changed by Jesus entails. Find a partner or community to help, and together follow Jesus in His redemptive work.

Close in prayer.

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