

The background of the top section is a vibrant autumn scene with various shades of red, orange, and yellow leaves scattered across a warm, golden-brown gradient. The leaves are detailed with veins and some are partially overlapping.

The Big Question:

When I sin, does that mean I'm bad?

The Big Answer:

Because God loves me so much, when I sin I can ask God to forgive me and He will.

We use many words to describe a bad thing we do: mistake, failing misbehavior, naughtiness, disobedience, offense, etc. But the Bible uses just one word to cover all of these: **SIN**. James 4:17 gives us God's definition of sin: "If you know what is right to do but you do not do it, you sin." (NLT) The Bible also tells us in Romans 3:23 that "...all men have sinned and have missed the shining-greatness of God." (NLT)

This problem started back with the very first people on Earth who believed Satan's lie and thought they could get away with disobeying God. Since then, there's been something in all of us that wants to get our own way, and the Bible calls that sin. Most of us tend to think that our own sins weren't really very bad, but when you think about the whole world being filled with people who all want our own way, the problems that result are awful and huge!

Also, most of us tend to want to keep anyone from finding out about the wrong things we have done. We surely don't want people who like us to know about the times we have failed. But hiding a problem never solves it. So the Bible tells us what to do instead: "Confess our sins." We are to be honest and admit to God, and to other people, that we have sinned. And then what will happen?

Will God get mad and punish us? Not at all. God already knows that we have sinned. Confessing our sins isn't telling God something new; it's coming to God without trying to hide parts of our lives from Him. When we do that, God forgives us and makes us clean. Does that mean that we will never sin and need to confess again? No, but when God makes us clean, we become more like Him and less like the person who used to do wrong and then pretend that everything was fine. God gives us a new start and helps us to become better than we were before.

Sin separates us from God, but "God showed His love to us...While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. This week your child learned that the word "confess" means to "ask". When we do something wrong, we need to ask God to forgive us. God is faithful and will forgive us. "He has taken our sins from us as far as the east is from the west." (Psalm 103:12) Thanks be to God for paying the ultimate price for each of us. Take time to share with your child or grandchild what God did for you. The greatest influence a child has is YOU, the parent, the family unit.

A close-up photograph of several pumpkins and gourds in various sizes and colors, including bright orange and yellow, set against a background of autumn leaves.

Thanks for making an eternal difference in your family!

