



# Loaded Words

## Sermon Series



## Loaded Words 2022

### Small Group Guides

These guides are meant to help promote discussion among friends, families, small group, Sunday school classes, etc. Most of the content has been taken from the book, “Loaded Words” by Leann Luchinger and Heather Davis. Other resources include “Lutheranism 101” published by CPH and Luther’s Small Catechism.



# SIN (Ash Wednesday)

## Definition of SIN

Betraying God; rejecting His will and His ways; any thought, word, or deed that departs from the will of God (Lutheranism 101)

## Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus, as we talk about sin, we ask that you give us grace and humility that only you can give. The world makes up its own moral code; most of the time it does not follow the Word of God. Give us wisdom as we discuss today. Amen.

## Connecting Question

How many times have you sinned today? Try and count it up!

## Scripture reading

Genesis 3:1-19; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 5:21-22; Luke 7:36-50; Romans 3:23

## Questions

1. What do you think of when you hear the word sin?
2. Do you think of sin as an act or state of being? (Actual sin/Original sin)
3. What do you think people outside the church think of when they hear the word sin?
4. From the Bible readings above, what does God say about sin?
5. Would we need Jesus if we had no sin?

## Make it Personal

Take time this week to ask people you know how they define the word SIN. Use the conversations to share how Jesus saves you from your sin.

## Closing Prayer

Jesus, we are sorry for the sin we commit, the sin we have committed that we don't even know we do. Forgive us, renew us and lead us today and tomorrow. Amen.

## Additional Resources

Red Letter challenge video on Forgiveness and Sin <https://vimeo.com/519471144/f981ea2a06>



# SUBMIT

## Definition of SUBMIT

To serve a person or authority; a willing act that will benefit another;  
A follower of Jesus submits to the authority of God's Word

## Opening Prayer

Jesus, we submit ourselves to you. We ask that you guide our conversation. Amen.

## Connecting Question

In the past week, who have you submitted to in your life?

## Scripture reading

Proverbs 3:6; Genesis 16:1-9; Ephesians 5:19-31; Matthew 3:13-15

## Questions

1. Do you think the word Submit is a negative or positive word in our culture today?
2. Women were a big part of the story of Jesus while he was here on Earth. How did Jesus treat women and how was it different from the culture of the day?
3. Those that try to undermined God's word will out of context and twist its meaning. How has the word submit been taken out of context when it comes to the life of a Christian?

## Make it Personal

Submitting to Christ Jesus is to give up our lives for Him. What does it mean to you to submit to Jesus? How can you live out your life as one who submits to Jesus?

## Closing Prayer

We submit to you- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Guide our lives to be ones that submit to you in all that we do. Let our actions to the world be a witness to those around us. Amen.

## Additional Resources

Tim Keller on Submit- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZisHcdQdng>



# JUDGEMENT

## Definition of JUDGEMENT

“When we think about the word Judgement, this is what we must remember: judgment is the vehicle by which justice is meted out. Our challenges with the word judgment today come not from the existence of- or necessity for- judgment in the world, but from the heart and spirit with which judgmental actions are taken.” Loaded Words (page 144)

## Opening Prayer

Jesus, let us see people how you see us- broken and in need of a Savior. Amen

## Connecting Question

If you could be the judge of any competition, what would it be and why?

## Scripture reading

Psalm 7:6-9; Matthew 7:2-5; Romans 3:10-18

## Questions

1. Why do people inside and outside of the church dislike the word judgement?
2. How should the church (followers of Jesus) respond to those that say they don't like the church because it is a place of judgment?
3. What is the difference between the judgment of God and the judgment of man?

## Make it Personal

Spend the next week interacting with people with grace and mercy that we receive only because of what Jesus has done for us.

## Closing Prayer

Jesus- I need you in my life. Give me eyes to see those around me like you see them. Give me the courage to step out in faith and be your hands and feet to my neighbor. Amen.

## Additional Resources

Rev. Bill Yonker speaking at the 2013 LCMS Youth Gathering (Story of John 8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtIB49t7zZE>

Pastor Ken Hutcherson

<https://www.iamsecond.com/film/ken-hutcherson/>



# RELIGION

## Definition of RELIGION

“There is one primary Hebrew word root from which religion springs: Hagag. What do you think hagag means? Obey? Repent? Revere? Nope. Celebrate! And not just a polite nod to the day, but a feasting, dancing, reeling festival so joyful that it embodies the notion of “staggering” like a sailor being tossed on a ship by exuberant waves. These celebrations were their (Jewish) Holy Days, what we now call holidays. It is this hagag which is at the heart of religion. (Loaded Words pg. 163)

## Opening Prayer

God, as we talk about religion, give us empathy and compassion for those that do not follow you. Send your Holy Spirit to us and grant us your peace.

## Connecting Question

Name as many religions as you can in 30 seconds.

## Scripture reading

Exodus 12:14; Amos 5:21-24; John 1:1-5; Acts 17:22-28; James 1:26

## Questions

1. What festivals/celebrations do you celebrate each year that are the most special to you?
2. What is the difference between religion and church? Is there a difference?
3. What is the difference between religions and denominations?
4. Of all the religions in the world, which ones depend on your own works to earn salvation/wisdom/higher enlightenment?
5. What do you think God thinks about the word “religion”?

## Make it Personal

Research another religion and find out the differences between it and Christianity.

## Closing Prayer

Jesus, as a part of the body of Christ, send us out into our community to live out our lives for you. Amen.

## Additional Resources

Short video (spoken word) on one person's view on Religion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IAhDGYlpqY>

Book- Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman

<http://www.notafan.com/>

Book about world religions

<https://www.cph.org/p-29858-the-christian-difference-an-explanation-comparison-of-world-religions.aspx?REName=&plk=0&Lk=0&rlk=0>



# HELL

## Definition of HELL

Having our own way forever, separated from God (Lutheranism 101)

## Opening Prayer

Jesus, you conquered sin, death and the devil. Let us hold onto the Hope we have in you as we discuss hell and those that have rejected you. Amen

## Connecting Question

How is the word “hell” used in our culture today?

## Scripture reading

Psalms 88:3-5; Matthew 25:41; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:1

## Questions

1. What are your thoughts on what Hell is and what it is not?
2. The church has used Hell as a scare tactic to “win” people over to Jesus. Have you seen this done? If so, did it work? What are the dangers in using this as a witnessing tool?
3. Suicide is often said as the one unforgivable sin. That is a false statement. What is the one unforgivable sin? (see Matthew 10:33) \*If you have denied Christ in your life, but seek His forgiveness, Jesus welcomes you back with open arms. Remember Peter? He denied Jesus 3 times and yet, Jesus welcomed Peter back into a relationship with Him.

## Make it Personal

Are there people in your life that are going to Hell? Start praying this week for God to give you opportunities to talk about your relationship with Jesus with this person.

## Closing Prayer

Jesus- Thank you for taking on the punishment for my sins so that I do not have to spend eternity without you! Guide me this week to be around people that need to hear, see, and witness this great gift of Grace you have given to all people.

## Additional Resources

Francis Chan video on God and Hell (10 min)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnrJVTsYLr8>

Book- Erasing Hell by Francis Chan and Preston Sprinkle  
<https://www.christianbook.com/erasing-hell-ebook-francis-chan/9780781407533/pd/18839EB>





# CONFESS

## Definition of CONFESS

“.....confess quickly grows to express its full and primary biblical meaning which incorporates to praise, give thanks, extol, acknowledge, and proclaim. Simply put, to confess is to return each day to the Hebrew prayer, the great Shema, ‘Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.’” (Loaded Words page 93)

## Opening Prayer

We confess our sins to you, O Lord: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen

## Connecting Question

If you were to ask someone who does not follow Jesus to define the word “confess,” how would they respond?

## Scripture reading

Deuteronomy 6:4-6; Psalm 32:1-5; Romans 10:8-9

## Questions

1. When is it easy to confess your sins and when is it hard to confess your sins?
2. Why do you think it is important to publicly confess our sins during our church services?
3. In the book, Loaded Words, the authors state that our confession is our statement of who we are, what we believe, and why we believe it when it comes to the “meaning of life.” Briefly describe each of these three components of Christian confession.
4. How is the Apostle’s Creed a confession?

## Make it Personal

Be specific on how you will live out your confession this week.

## Closing Prayer

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

## Additional Resources

Video- What is sin? <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/khata-sin/>

LCMS statements of faith

<https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/doctrine/statement-of-scriptural-and-confessional-principles>