**Title:**God’s Case Study: God, Sin, and You

**Scripture:**Genesis 38:1-30

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**Big Idea:**The topic of sin must be vertically acknowledged, personally audited, and intentionally addressed.

**Outline**

1.  Danger! Playing With Sin (1-5)  
2.  Danger! Partitioning Sin (6-11)  
3.  Danger! Practicing Sin (12-23)  
4.  Danger! Poo-Pooing Sin (7b, 10)  
5.  Danger! Pulverized by Sin (24-30)

***WHAT DID YOU LEARN?***

1. What does it mean to practice medicine, practice counseling, practice cooking, practice a sport? Would you agree with this statement? The more your practice, the more second-nature an activity becomes. Why would this true-ism compel us to actively audit and decisively deal with sin?

2. What would be some activities the world - or even some in the church - might consider “respectable sins”? Given God’s response to sin in verses 7 and 10 as well as Him crushing Jesus on the cross (Isaiah 53:10), how should we view “respectable” sins?

***HOW WILL YOU APPLY IT?***

**Confess**

1. Have you ever partitioned sin - that is: argued by logic, justified ends, or even desperation that your biblically questionable behavior was acceptable? Are there any areas in your life right now that fit into this category?

2. Have you committed any sin for which the memory causes great shame and potentially debilitates your ability to move forward in victory? How might the postscript of this deplorable chapter remind you of the hope that is found in the Gospel of Christ?

**Renew Your Mind**

1. Read Genesis 4:6. What do you need to do at the first sign of sin? Consider your respectable sin, how do you need rule over it? What are potential consequences of your “respectable” sins?

2. What thoughts (true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, praise worthy) do you need to have to change your view of your respectable sin?

**Live It Out**

List the sins that you are justifying or playing with in your life. Take each one of those sins and list how it offends God’s character and commandments. Pray God will increase your sensitivity to these sins. Eradicate the sin out of your life through true repentance.

**Read Ahead**

Read Genesis 39. What parallels and contrasts are found in the events of chapters 38 and 39?