

Short Talk

(SHT009)

The problem of sin

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SHORT TALK: “THE PROBLEM OF SIN” (SHT009)

Aim of Short talk:	To show that sin spoils our relationship with God and that only Jesus can sort it out.
Main themes:	Sin, Gospel
Biblical references:	Romans 3:23, 2Corinthians 5:21
Props:	Two identical ties, sellotape and scissors
Before the Talk:	A week before the talk, ask a man in your congregation (who normally wears a tie to church) to wear one of your two identical ties. Warn him that you will be inviting him to come to the front of the church the following week. Tell him to keep this a secret.

This morning I need someone wearing a tie to come and help me.
(Look around the congregation and then “randomly” select the man who is wearing one of your ties)

Thank you.

- Would you like to come and stand here *(Stand him front centre so that he is facing the congregation)*
- I must say that’s a very nice tie you are wearing this morning sir....
- It would be such a shame to spoil it wouldn’t it?

Sadly we human beings have a tendency to spoil things don’t we?

- Many of us have said things that have upset other people,
- which has resulted in spoilt relationships
- so let’s show that by cutting a piece off this tie. *(Cut off a piece of tie. Be a bit theatrical with the scissors!)*

Others of us have lied to friends or members of our family,

- spoiling the trust that we had with them,
- so let’s show that by cutting a piece off this tie. *(Cut off a piece of tie)*

Most of us have at some point been selfish,

- spoiling who we were created to be
- so let’s show that by cutting a piece off this tie. *(Cut off a piece of tie)*

You only have to look around the world to see how we have all been a part of spoiling it

- so let’s show that by cutting a piece off this tie. *(Cut off a piece of tie)*

Worst of all we have all spoilt our relationship with God,

- by choosing to rebel against him,
- and living lives our own way,
- so let’s show that by cutting a piece off this tie. *(Cut off a piece of tie)*

We all spoil things don’t we? The Bible calls this SIN.

Oh dear....look at *N*'s beautiful tie.....

- It is really spoilt isn't it?

Never mind. We can fix it.....with the help of some sellotape. (*Get out sellotape and attempt to stick the pieces of tie to the bit of tie left around N's neck*)

- Here we go.....one fixed tie (*Point at tie around N's neck*)

But it's not fixed really is it?

- It's totally spoilt.
- I don't think that *N* would want to wear this tie anymore do you?

Sadly sin spoils each one of us and there is nothing that we can do to fix it.

- Some of us think that we can put our lives right ourselves,
- by trying to do lots of good things,
- but the truth is that we can't.
- It's just like fixing this tie with sellotape.

However, the good news is that God has done something about our sin spoiled lives.

- He sent Jesus to earth to come and take the punishment that our sins deserved.
- When Jesus hung on the cross, it was as if all our sins were placed upon Him.

If we come to the Risen Jesus now and ask Him to forgive us our sins,

- not only does he do that, (*Invite N to remove the spoilt tie*)
- but he also gives us a brand new life (*Give N a new identical tie to put on. It works best if the tie is already knotted and easily slipped on and tightened up*)

This new life comes with a new power to be able to live God's way in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- What a wonderful gift.
- Have you received your new life yet?

Thank you.

(*Send volunteer back to their seat*)