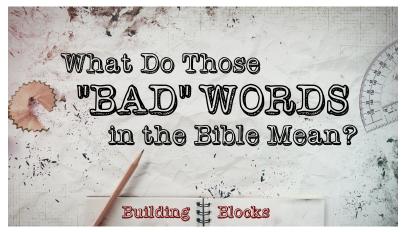
3 • Iniquity

"Iniquity is..." How would you finish that sentence? We hear that word here and there, but what does it mean? Most importantly, what does God mean when he talks about "iniquity"?

Just like the word "sin" and



"transgression," this word doesn't have to be describing something moral or religious.

INIQUITY literally means to "	_" or "make"
And so, at one of Israel's darkest moments, we hear my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my	-
A voice on the bare heights is heard,	
the weeping and pleading of Israel's sons	
because they have their	Way.
they have forgotten the LORD their God. (Je	
Or	
"I sinned and perverted what right"	(Job 33:27)
The seriousness of this "perversion" can be clearly	seen in Isaiah 59:
Their feet run to evil,	
and they are swift to shed innocent blood;	
their thoughts are thoughts of	;
desolation and destruction are in their highv	vays.
The way of peace they do not know,	
and there is no justice in their paths;	
they have made their roads	_;
no one who treads on them knows peace. (Is	sa 59:7-8)
In fact, right here in this chapter, all three of the "baused to describe how serious it is (Isa 59:12) to be	
And yet, in many ways, the story of the Bible can b	•
"Blessed is the one whose transgression is	
Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts	
Jesus Christ is that "the grace of God has appeared	
problem of "iniquity" is translated "lawlessness" ir	Titus 2:14, and it is our most serious

lawlessness and to ______ for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works" (Titus 2:11-14). Only Jesus can repair what we've bent by our iniquities.

problem of all. But this is why our Savior Jesus Christ "gave himself"-to "redeem us from all

For Class & Family Discussion:

Let's brainstorm together for a while. What sort of things has God blessed us with—things that are good and right and true—that we have "bent" or "twisted" or "made crooked" as human beings? Let's make a list together...

- Now, as you look at that list, have we made those blessings from God better by "bending" and "twisting" them?
- But is it *really* that big of a deal to "bend" and "twist" what God has designed and gifted us to the point that it's now "crooked"? If so, why?
- Let's revisit Isaiah 59 and focus in on 59:12-15. What suffers when we "bend" and "twist" what God has given us? What do we lose?
- Why do you think sins and iniquities have the effect on our relationship with God described in Isaiah 59:1-2?
- Why is it absolutely critical that we follow David's lead in Psalm 32 and honestly "acknowledge" our sins, transgressions, and iniquities?
- Looking back at Titus 2:11-14, how would you summarize the way God helps us conquer our sins, transgressions, and iniquities?