

## The Ticket

Heading home from practice, Mom steered the car to the side of the road and stopped.

A police car raced past Jimmy's window. "What's going on?" he asked, straining to see.

"It looks like there's been an accident," Mom replied.

"What happened?" Dad asked when they got home. "I thought you'd be home a long time ago."

"There was an accident on the highway," Mom replied. "Traffic was backed up for miles."

"I saw that on the news. A man was speeding and lost control."

"That's what he deserves," Jimmy interrupted.

"Jimmy!"

"What? He broke the law. He should be punished," Jimmy replied.

Later that week, Mom and Jimmy were running late for practice. Mom steered the car to the side of the road and stopped.

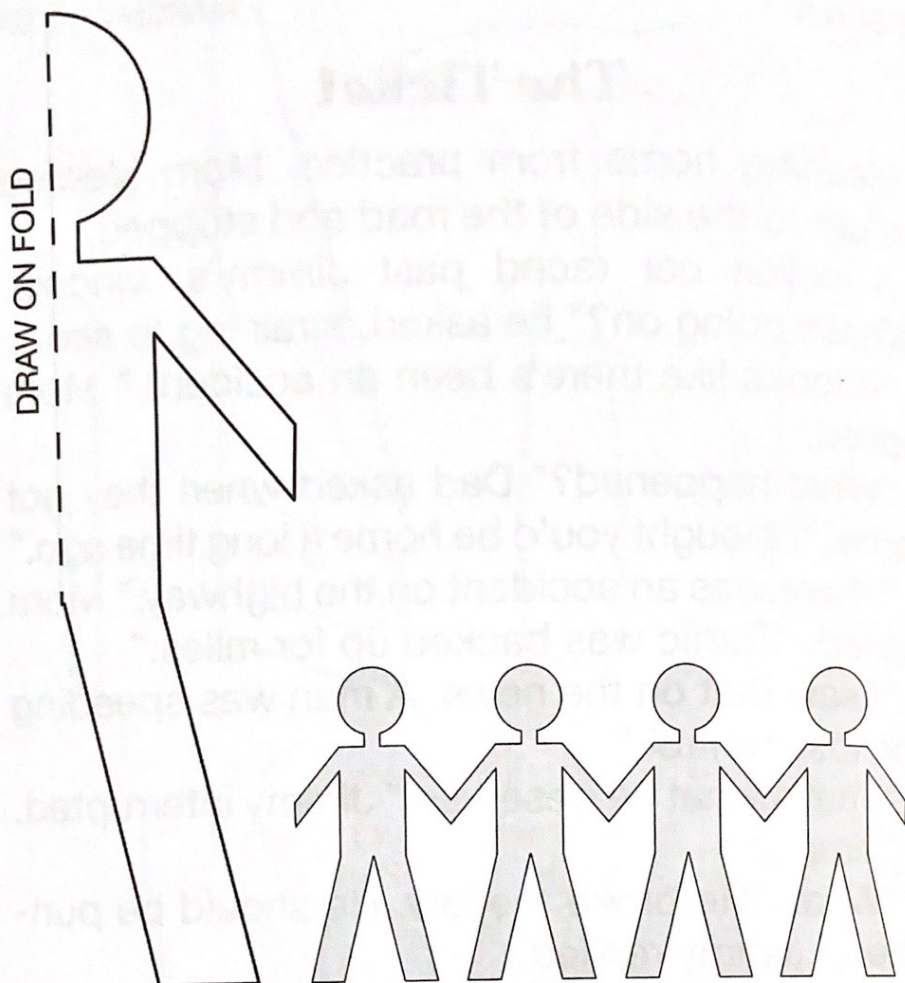
"What's going on?" Jimmy asked. The lights of a police car reflected in his window.

"I was speeding and broke the law," Mom replied. "Don't I deserve a ticket?"

"But you were only speeding because we're late," Jimmy said.

"Excuses don't remove guilt. The man in the accident this week could have been late too. I am no better than he is. In fact, all of us are sinners, and none of us are righteous when compared to God" (see Romans 3:9-20).





Sin affects everything and everyone. Fold a 4-by-11-inch piece of paper in half widthwise. Fold it in half twice more the same way. Draw half of a simple shape of a person like the one above on the paper. Be sure to do it on the fold. Make sure the hand fully touches the open side. Cut out, unfold and decorate your paper chain family. With a protective layer of newspaper on the table, dip a small paintbrush into paint. Hold the brush above your "family" and tap your hand against the handle. The paint splatters on everything! Each family member is affected, just as sin affects each of us.