

26 April

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Discipleship Journey – Repentance

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what repentance is and why it is important for salvation?
2. What was the words of Jesus' first sermon in Matthew 4:17? **(From that time on Jesus began to preach, repent for the Kingdom of heaven has come.)**.
3. What was Jesus' words in Mark 1:15? **(The time has come, He said. The Kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!).**
4. What was Peter's words in Acts 2:38? **(Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.)**.

 Let's go deeper

5. What leads to repentance in 2 Cor.7:10? **(Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves not regret...)**
6. How do we know the prodigal son changed his mind in Luke 15:17? **(When he came to his senses, he said...)**.
7. How do we know the prodigal son's heart changed in Luke 15:18? **(I will set out and go back to my father and say to him...)**.
8. How do we know the prodigal son's actions changed in Luke 15:20 – 21? **(So, he got up and went to his father... v.21; The son said to him, father, I have sinned against heaven and against you...)**.

 Let's apply this

**9. Luke 15:17 – 20;** "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

- Is your life going in a new direction?
- Are there sinful areas in your life that you are struggling with?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you power in times of weakness?
- Ask a godly friend this week to keep you accountable.

SUMMARY:

**Discipleship Journey – Repentance**

**Read:** 2 Cor.7:9 – 10; Luke 15:11 – 24

The first step to become a Christian or follower of Jesus Christ is to repent (see Matt.4:17; Mark 1:15 and Acts 2:37 – 38). Repentance is the start of a new life.

Driving a car in the wrong direction on a one-way street is dangerous. Some drive the wrong way on a one-way street out of ignorance or rebellion. Whether out of ignorance or rebellion, we are all on a dangerous one-way street that will ultimately lead to eternal separation from God. Until we turn around / repent and follow Christ, every step we take is a step in the wrong direction, a step away from God.

**What is true repentance?**

The Greek word for repentance is **metanoia** and means to have another mind (to change your mind), or to change course (see Matthew 4:17 and Mark 1:15).

The Hebrew word for repentance is **shub** and means to turn back, to make a U-turn (see 1 Kings 8:47 and Ezekiel 18:30).

Repentance is to change our thinking and mind about sin and God, to turn away from sin and turn to God. This change of mind is followed by a change in heart and actions – the whole direction of one's life change, it is a 180-degree turn.

True repentance begins when we are truly sorry for our sins. This godly sorrow makes no excuses. It takes full responsibility. It never blames people, society, or circumstances. Godly sorrow acknowledges that our sin is primarily against God. This type of sorrow leads to life-changing repentance (see Psalm 51:4).

Worldly sorrow is being sorry we got caught, or being sorry we have to suffer the consequences of sin. The ultimate difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow is the fruit. Worldly sorrow never produces fruit of a changed life; it only produces spiritual death (see Acts 26:20 and Matt.3:8).

Repentance means we stop trusting in our own deeds, works and start to trust in Christ alone. We were going in the wrong direction, now we are going in the right direction. We were running from God, now we are walking with Him. Turning to God means no looking back.

The parable of the prodigal son in **Luke 15:11 – 24** is a great example of repentance: **v.17;** The son came to his senses (change of mind).

**vv.18 – 19;** The son turned his back on sin (change of heart).

**vv.20 – 21;** The son returned to his father (change of actions).

He made a 180-degree turnaround. He walked away from his former life of sin and rebellion. From that point on, the prodigal son lived differently.