



Repentance

Robert Morris

Focus The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia* which means to change your mind. When Jesus told people to repent, He wanted them to change their thinking about God and know He loves them and that they can come to Him through grace. When we change our thinking about God and how He sees us, God refreshes and renews us.

Fun What advice would you give to someone who is starting a new job or a new career?

Review Key Scriptures: Matthew 4:17; Luke 15:2; Acts 3:19

1. Change your mind about repentance.

Many people misunderstand the word repentance. The Greek word for repentance, *metanoia*, means to change your mind or change the way you think about something. With a wrong view of repentance, it is easy to mistakenly read the Scriptures and think that when Jesus told people to repent, He was telling them they were rotten sinners who needed to stop sinning. However, Jesus was telling them they needed to stop trying to get to God through the law because they could only get to God by grace.

2. Change your mind about Jesus.

The number one complaint religious people had about Jesus is the way He received sinners and ate with them. Jesus wanted sinners to repent—or change their minds—about how God sees them. He wanted them to know God loves them and accepts them. He wanted them to change their minds about Him and Father God. Because God is all-loving, He loves you no matter what. Nothing you have ever done or will ever do can change the way God loves you.

3. Change your mind about yourself.

Repentance comes before conversion and refreshing. Some people don't want to hear another person's perspective because they might have to change their minds about what happened or admit they are not perfect. Repentance is a good word. It's about being honest with yourself, others, and God. Repentance is not a one-time event.

Group Dynamics Idea Read Ephesians 4:11–13. Provide a supportive and encouraging atmosphere where people can discover and develop their spiritual gifts, which will help them do the work of ministry (co-leader, host, worship leader, etc.).

Discuss

1. What did you think about the word “repentance” before hearing this message? How did your understanding of repentance change?
2. What are some changes that took place in your thinking when you accepted Jesus and were born again?
3. Why is it important to repent or change your thinking on a daily basis? What happens to people who don't repent?
4. What are some ways God has led you to change your thinking (repent) after being saved? How did that change of thinking affect your life?
5. Read Acts 3:19. Have you ever experienced times of refreshing after repenting?
6. What are some areas of your life or your belief about God's love for you where you may need to change your thinking?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Repentance means to change your mind or way of thinking.
- Jesus came to help sinners change their minds about how God sees them and loves them.
- Repentance comes before conversion and refreshing.

Prayer Heavenly Father, we ask You to show us areas of our life where we need to repent. Please reveal strongholds and areas where we have wrong thinking and

wrong perspectives about You, ourselves, and others. Help us to continually renew our minds to line up with the truth of Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Before you started your group, what excited you most about leading? Has your expectation or perspective changed after leading? Remember how it felt to start your group and share this perspective with other new leaders or with someone from your group you are training up as a co-leader. Honestly process what is working in your group and what you can adapt to meet the growing needs of your group.