

MAIN POINT

Through the process of repentance and forgiveness, God redeems us and makes us new.

INTRODUCTION

How would you define “repentance?” Do you think most people in our community think much about repentance?

How do you know if repentance is real? What is the result of genuine repentance?

Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of that sin, and a sincere commitment to turn from it and walk in obedience to Christ. Being a Christ-follower isn't just a matter of thinking and doing the right things and avoiding the wrong things. Foundational to being a Christian is a personal relationship with Jesus that empowers you to live for God and make decisions out of the leading of the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION

> READ PSALM 51:1-19.

On what attributes of God did David stake his request for forgiveness? How had David experienced these characteristics of God before? How have you?

What did David mean when he said it was only against God he had sinned when others were clearly hurt (v. 4)? How is this also true for us when we sin?

Read Psalm 32:1-5. Share about a time when you experienced God's heavy hand. What was the end result?

Which request of David's do you identify with the most? Why?

In verse 13, how did forgiveness change the way that David saw other people?

How has God's forgiveness changed the way you view others? Why should God's forgiveness always change our perspective on others?

What can you do today to take up a posture of faith and genuine repentance?

What fruit in your life can you directly relate to a time when you were genuinely repentant?

How could genuine repentance in our church impact our city? The world?

How do God's grace and forgiveness encourage repentance?

APPLICATION

Where do you need to pursue repentance before God that you might be forgiven and restored to Him today?