

**“Repent”****SECTION 1:****A Story of Repentance***Read II Samuel 12:1-13*

A man named David, the most popular king in the history of Israel, had a time in his life and reign when he committed terrible sins. He seduced and committed adultery with another man's wife, named Bathsheba. Afterward, when it was revealed that she had become pregnant, David tried to cover up his sin by arranging for Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, to come home from the battlefield in hopes that he would have sexual relations with his wife. Thus, Uriah would be thought to be the child's father rather than David. But Uriah, a noble, loyal and courageous man, would not even stay under the same roof with Bathsheba because of his devotion to his fellow soldiers still on the battlefield. When his deceptive plan didn't work, David compounded the sin of adultery and deception with that of murder. David gave instructions that Uriah be put on the frontline in battle. Then he was to be deserted, leaving him to be overwhelmed and killed by the enemy. Uriah, one of David's mighty men, an innocent and faithful servant, died in battle. With Uriah dead, David took Bathsheba to be his wife, believing that people would see the child as having been conceived within the bonds of their marriage.

In the midst of this horribly sinful cover-up, God intervened. God loved David too much to allow him to continue on in his sin. David had to be confronted and given an opportunity to confess his sin, repent from the heart and be restored to fellowship with God. God sent the prophet Nathan to expose David's sin by telling him a story about a wealthy man who takes from another man his only valuable possession, a lamb. When David, the shepherd-king, heard this story he was furious, and said that a man who would do such a thing should be killed. Nathan's response to David's outrage was this: “You are the man!” David, deeply convicted of his guilt, confessed his sin and genuinely repented. David's prayer of repentance and restoration is recorded in Psalm 51.

**The Definition of Repentance*****What is repentance?****Read Romans 2:4 and II Corinthians 7:9-10*

Repentance involves turning away from something and turning towards something else. In your case as a disciple, you turn from sin to God. God's kindness leads you to repentance, but godly sorrow produces repentance. The Holy Spirit, whom God gave you at salvation, is at work in this process as He reveals the truth of the Gospel, your sinful condition, and the need for Jesus' gift of salvation. He convicts you in your heart and draws you to God. Repentance begins upon entering into relationship with Jesus, and should be practiced as a lifestyle to maintain intimacy with Him.

Repent in the Greek Language is “*Metanoeo*” (met-an-o-eh-o), a decision that results in a change of mind, which in turn leads to a change of purpose and action. It also means to think differently afterwards, to reconsider. Genuine repentance is not about having regret due to consequences, but instead involves a true change of heart toward God. It results in a wiser view of the past, present and future.

In order for true transformation to take place, you must acknowledge each wrong thought, word, attitude and action as sin. Repentance is not just a change in your outward actions. It is a heart response that will result in clean, undefiled thinking. It is a mindset that honors, reveres, and embraces the truth of the Bible, and the will and the ways of God.

***Why do I need to repent?****Read John 15:1-8*

The greatest blessing of the Christian life is not just the restoration of relationship between the believer and God, but in having the privilege of enjoying a moment-by-moment, intimate relationship with Jesus. Un-confessed, un-dealt-with sin keeps you from close relationship with Him. It stops your ability to live an effective and fruitful life. Ongoing repentance keeps you clear and clean before God and in a place to enjoy everything that intimate relationship with Him can bring.

## How do I repent?

Read *I John 1:6-9*

Once you ask the Holy Spirit to point out sin in your life and you have a godly sorrow about this sin, confess and acknowledge to the Lord that it is wrong. Sin comes out of your life from a repentant heart by way of the mouth. You repent with your heart, and you confess with your mouth. True confession is speaking the truth that you sinned in thought, word, attitude or action, and taking full responsibility for it. This allows you to acknowledge the wrongness of the sin that you have partnered with as you turn towards God to receive His life-changing and restoring forgiveness, and the grace not to repeat the sin.

When Jesus was teaching His disciples to pray, He said *when* you pray, this is how you should pray, “Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors.” Repentance is not a one-time act. Repentance should be practiced as a lifestyle that will keep you clean before the Lord, opening the way for more intimate and life-giving relationship with Him.



Take ten minutes, stop and ask the Holy Spirit to show you thoughts, words, attitudes or actions that do not line up with the Bible.



Acknowledge and confess to the Lord each thought, word, attitude and action from your response above as sin. Ask, then receive, His forgiveness for each sin. Use the journal pages provided to write these things down.



Throughout the day, every day, continue in repentance, asking the Holy Spirit to show you sin in your life, and help you turn towards God and His ways.

## SECTION 2:

### The Study of Repentance

This inductive Bible study will help you respond in obedience to the truth of God’s Word. As you look at each passage of Scripture below, *examine* what it says, *express* what it means, and consider how you will *exercise* it in your life. Use the Inductive Bible Study Guidelines and Worksheet provided on the following pages to help you.



Read *I John 1:6-9* and write it down using the journal pages provided.



Now read these scriptures aloud and declare your commitment to the truth of them in your life. Use the journal pages provided to rephrase these scriptures in your own words.



Write down 2-3 action steps that you will take based on the truth of *I John 1:6-9*, using the journal pages provided.

## Inductive Bible Study Worksheet



## Inductive Bible Study Worksheet



## Inductive Bible Study Worksheet



### SECTION 3:

#### The Discussion about Repentance

Use the journal pages provided to write your response to each of these questions, in preparation for a group discussion.



What role does the Holy Spirit play in repentance?



In your life, what will the fruit of genuine repentance look like? Share a recent example of how this understanding might have led to greater intimacy with Jesus and better relationships with others if you had walked out the steps of repentance.



How will you cultivate a lifestyle of repentance in your life?

## Marks of Maturing

These are the Marks of Maturing as someone who obeys. How well do they describe you? Use the journal pages provided to write your response.

- A disciple is someone whose life is patterned after the life of Jesus.
- A disciple is someone who experiences the Lord's manifest presence in his/her life, and has an intimate relationship with Him.
- A disciple is someone who says "yes" with his/her heart, sets his/her mind on God's will being done, and moves in faith to act upon what He has said.

## Go Further

Here are some optional readings for you as you walk in obedience:

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"The cross is laid on every Christian. It begins with the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with His death... we give over our lives to death. Since this happens at the beginning of the Christian life, the cross can never be merely a tragic ending to an otherwise happy religious life. When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow Him, or it may be a death like Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time... death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at His call. That is why the rich young man was so loath to follow Jesus, for the cost of his following was the death of his will. In fact, every command of Jesus is a call to die, with all our affections and lusts. But we do not want to die, and therefore Jesus Christ and His call are necessarily our death and our life." Dietrich Bonhoeffer<sup>6</sup>

"The natural people – those whose minds have not been enlightened

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<sup>6</sup> [www.christianquotes.com](http://www.christianquotes.com), Dietrich Bonhoeffer - German Lutheran Pastor/Theologian, 1906-1945

by the Holy Spirit – scoff at us. What we do doesn't always seem logical to them. But then, who says our actions have to be logical? The Bible tells us the natural or carnal mind doesn't understand spiritual things (see 1 Corinthians 2:14). Too often, we push aside thoughts, saying, 'This doesn't make sense,' and we actually ignore divine guidance. It's true of course, the devil can flood our minds with wild thoughts that we do need to ignore, but if we pray and open ourselves to the Spirit, we soon know the difference. This is an important principle of obedience we must grasp: obeying instead of reasoning, or as one of my friends calls it, 'The Nevertheless Principle.' She says sometimes she feels God leading her to do things that don't always make a lot of sense. When she hears herself expressing that sentiment, she quickly adds, 'Nevertheless.' Then she obeys. That is really all God asks of us: to obey instead of reasoning against something He is telling us to do. The best policy is to check with your spirit and see if you have peace rather than checking with your mind to see if what God is asking is reasonable." Joyce Meyer<sup>7</sup>

"Just as a servant knows that he must first obey his master in all things, so the surrender to an implicit and unquestionable obedience must become the essential characteristic of our lives." Andrew Murray<sup>8</sup>

"Wicked men obey from fear; good men, from love." Augustine<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Start Your New Life Today*, pages 118-119, FaithWords Hachette Group USA  
New York, NY, February 2008

<sup>8</sup> <http://christianquotes.org>