

The Most Important Idea in Acts

REPENTANCE

What it is not:

1. "I **KNOW** that what I did was wrong."
2. "I **FEEL** bad about what I've done."
3. "I **HATE** that I did that."
4. "I **WANT** to do better next time."
5. "Next time I'm in the **SAME** situation..."

What it is:

Romans 12, Luke 15, Luke 19, Psalm 38:18

1. **REDIRECTION** of the **MIND**
2. **REMORSE** in the **EMOTION**
3. **RESPONSIBILITY** without **EXCUSES**
4. **RECOGNITION** of my broken **CONDITION**
5. **REQUEST** to be **FORGIVEN**
6. **REORIENTATION** of **AFFECTION**
7. **RESOLUTION** to a new **PATH**

How are we brought to repentance?

1. The **PREACHING** of God's **WORD**
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
2. The **GOODNESS** of God's **CHARACTER**
Romans 2:4
3. The **SORROWS** of **LIFE**
2 Samuel 12
4. The **EMPTINESS** of this **WORLD**
Luke 15:17

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of March 8, 2020

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

This week is the final meeting of our Winter Quarter. We'll take a two-week break. The Spring Quarter begins the week of March 29 and runs through May 29. To wrap up the quarter, we'll spend some time looking back at our study in Acts and have the option of taking Communion.

1. This weekend we learned about repentance in our relationship with God.

When we live that out in our relationships, it leads to apologizing and asking for forgiveness. Think of a time when you asked someone for forgiveness. How did you feel prior to approaching that person? How about after?

2. Christopher shared the poem, "My life in 5 chapters" as a way to illustrate how repentance establishes a new direction. Can you think of a time when you needed a new direction in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. As we started this life group quarter, we wrapped up our study of Mark and started Acts. As we close this quarter, we want to take a look at how God has challenged us and/or encouraged us these past 9 weeks. Take a moment to think back on what you have learned about the themes we have covered (some are below). Take note of any that stand out to you, and give a brief explanation of why they meant something to you.

Some highlights from Mark

- "Pick 3 people and pray for their salvation, an opportunity to share and the courage and words when the door opens."
- "The Bible has the power to transform lives."

Some highlights so far from Acts

- "The Spirit is living, the church is moving, and we are invited to play our part in it."
- "Acts isn't a story about superstar Christians; it's a story of Jesus building His church."
- "Every Christian has been given the Holy Spirit and gifts."
- "The sweet spot of every Christian is to be used by the Creator for what we were created to do."
- "Instead of asking God to bless our agenda, let's start praying for His agenda."

In what ways has your life group helped you apply any of the teachings/verses/principles above?

2. True Biblical repentance is not only a call to stop sinning by changing our behavior, but the call to turn toward God. One of the best illustrations of repentance is the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector. Read Luke 19:1-10, and write down anything that stands out to you.

Luke 19:1-10 - Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. ⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." ⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

When we repent in our relationship with God, it often leads to changes in how we interact with others. What do you think it would have been like for Zacchaeus to approach those he wronged to ask forgiveness and pay back those he cheated?

In the story above, Zacchaeus was a new follower of Jesus, and we see repentance displayed in his life. Would you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The longer a person follows Jesus, the less they need to repent.”

REMEMBERING

1. This weekend we looked at the need for Biblical repentance. We receive the gift of forgiveness resulting from repentance because of what Jesus accomplished through His life, death and resurrection. It is through His sacrifice that we have the opportunity to repent and turn to God to receive His gifts of grace and mercy.

This week your life group will conclude by following the example of the early church and taking communion together. To prepare for communion, read the verses below and reflect on the access God gives us to Him through repentance.

Proverbs 28:13 - Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Luke 15: 8-10 - “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Hebrews 4:14-16 - Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,^[a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

1 John 1:9-10 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week’s teaching and study, what is most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS



COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is a ministry of North Coast Church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God’s love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out NorthCoastCommunityService.org