

Study Series: All of Grace

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 Lesson Title: “Repentance and Forgiveness” (pp. 56-68)

Session 5

April 3, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: The forgiveness of salvation comes strictly by God’s work, but will not come apart from repentance.

Focus on this goal:To help adults not separate their seeking of forgiveness from their willingness to abandon their sin

Key Bible Passage: Acts 5:30-31

Before the Session

1. Bring in a few popular ads, either in paper form or from a photo on your phone. (Step 1)

2. You’ll need a board and markers for Step 3.

3. Bring an item that’s hopelessly entwined: a knot of necklaces, an extension cord, or so forth, or be prepared to describe such a tangle. (Step 4)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Show an ad you brought. As a salesperson, do your best to “sell” the item, reading the ad to describe its benefits. Say: This is yours if you’re willing to give up $999 (or whatever the price is).

Go through a few more ads, pointing out that getting the product only comes if we’re willing to give up a certain amount of money.

Explain that today’s passage looks at what we must be willing to give up as we receive God’s gracious salvation.

Step 2. “My Redeemer Lives”

Invite a volunteer to read the first Day One paragraph (pp. 56-57). Say: We who have been in church for years are well aware of who Jesus is; we know all about His life on earth, all He did, His death, and His resurrection. But we might not often consider who Jesus is and what He is doing right now.

Invite volunteers to read Acts 5:30-31 from various translations. Point out the words “exalted,” “Prince,” “Saviour,” and “forgiveness” (or their corresponding terms).

Use the second paragraph from Day One (p. 57) to help learners see that Jesus’s current identity is not only who He is but what He gives us.

Step 3. Repentance Must Go with Forgiveness, Part 1

Invite a volunteer to read 1 John 1:9, while you write it verbatim on a board. Circle “if” and point out this is a conditional statement; faithful and righteous Jesus forgives us, but only if we confess we are sinners and our sins go against His righteousness.

Use the first Day Two paragraph (pp. 58-59) to point out that continuing in evil proves we do not look to God as Savior and Judge of the world.

Ask the question that opens the second Day Two paragraph (pp. 59-60) and engage learners in discussing it using the information and parallels given by the writer.

Step 4. Repentance Must Go with Forgiveness, Part 2

Read from the second Day Three paragraph, starting with the sentence that begins, “Repentance and forgiveness are joined together . . .” (bottom of p. 60) through the end of the paragraph. Drive home the fact that repentance and forgiveness are joined together.

Display the item you brought from home that is hopelessly entwined. Engage a volunteer to try to untangle it.

Say: This reminds me of repentance and forgiveness; as we repent, God’s forgiveness is tightened, and vice versa.

Point out from the second paragraph, that repentance is also an inseparable companion of faith. Use the last few sentences of that paragraph to explain how we can know we are forgiven as we repent, and we repent because we know we are forgiven.

Step 5. Repentance Must Go with Forgiveness, Part 3

As a group, consider the definitions of repentance found at the beginning of Day Four (p. 62). Say: All the outpouring blessings of God—grace, faith, salvation, justification, and more—work together. The more we entrust our standards to align with the holiness of God, the more we grow in all these blessings.

Point out that all of salvation is a gift of God’s grace—even repentance flows from Christ. Though we make the decision whether to trust or reject God’s offer, the tug to repent comes directly from the Lord.

Read Philippians 2:13, pointing to the work of God for every good in our lives, reminding learners that our submission to the Holy Spirit is the resource for our obedience to walk by faith.

Step 6. How Repentance is Given

Remind learners of the primary Scripture for this session (Acts 5:30-31) by rereading it. Direct attention to the word “exalted,” pointing to the fact that as Christ triumphed over sin and death, His grace came down to us.

Use the third paragraph from Day Five (pp. 65-66) to point out all that came from the exaltation of Jesus: repentance, the Holy Spirit, salvation, forgiveness, and hope. Using that same paragraph, read from the sentence (p. 65): “the Lord Jesus Christ gives repentance to the most unlikely people,” pointing to Paul, Israel, and other biblical examples. Acknowledge that you and each person present are also unlikely people for repentance.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Pick up an object you can grasp firmly [a purse, a pencil, etc.] and exaggerate holding it as tightly as you can. Say: This is how we once held onto our sin: tightly, with no consideration of letting go. But when we truly know the forgiveness, justification, and repentance that comes from Christ, we loosen our grip (hold the item loosely) and we ask Jesus to remove it from our lives, He will.

Close with prayer, helping each learner to hear, know, and believe the Bible’s teachings of repentance.

