



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

The God Who Saves: Session 10

Converted (Part 1)

Key Statement: True repentance 1) is sorrow for sin, 2) is turning toward Christ, and 3) leads to obedience.

::CONNECT::

Option 1: Illustrations

- Take the three subpoints from Part 2 of the lesson: repentance is turning...
 - From darkness to light.
 - From the power of Satan to God.
 - From sin to works worthy of repentance.
- Split the students into groups of three. Ask each group to come up with a specific sinful attitude or act (no names, please). Now, have each student pick one of the above subpoints. They should make drawings of that sinful attitude or act with an emphasis on whichever subpoint they were assigned. They'll probably want to do before-and-after pictures, and each picture will probably need to have some thought bubbles.
 - For instance, let's say they did resentment toward a sibling. Turning from darkness to light might mean they are in darkness when they fail to realize their sibling is also a human being whom Jesus loves (especially if the sibling is a Christian), but when they turn to light they are able to see their sibling how Jesus sees them (and Jesus has lots of reason to resent us, but he doesn't). They might be in the power of Satan in that they are held down in bitterness in their resentment and can't fully enjoy fellowship with their sibling (enjoying that fellowship would be turning to the power of God). Finally, the sin might be standoffishness, or actual hurtful comments, whereas works worthy of repentance would be joyous communion or sharing.
- Have them present their drawings, and applaud the good connections they make.
- End the time by praying for the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts. Since real repentance is inward, only the Spirit can bring it about.

Option 2: Parable-Making

- Ask the students to come up with a list of places. They can be normal as can be (convenience store) or way out there (District 11 from *The Hunger Games*).
- Break the students into groups, and have each group pick one of the places.
- Now, the students have to make a parable set in the place they picked. The parable must show the difference between mere remorse (regret for circumstances) and true repentance (a genuine change of heart).
- Give them time to prep, then have them present.
- Hopefully, their settings will spur them to some unique ideas on demonstrating mere remorse and full repentance. Correct what needs correcting, and celebrate what they did well.
- Debrief by pointing out that true repentance is from the heart: it is sorrow for sin (Part 1 of the lesson). Close out by spending some time praying for personal repentance in your lives.

::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider only covering points one and three of the session.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide