

# Small Group Studies



*'Bringing God and people together'*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Principles

*To help build strong and balanced people*

### Study 2: Repentance

**Q What do you think of when you hear the word to "repent"?**

God calls **all people everywhere** to repent (Acts 17:30) so it's good for all of us to have a working understanding of what that means. Repentance is so important it is actually the first of the foundational principles of Christian life mentioned in Hebrews Chapter 6:1-3. These doctrines are not a bunch of theories but are experiences in God that can help us to progress in our lives.

**Q Discuss the following verse as a group?**

*"Repent, then and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus" Acts 3:19-20* We see in the above verse that Godly repentance leads any person to the total removal of sin and personal refreshing in the form of life direct from the Spirit of God. Repentance also leads us into personal relationship with God. But we must do it right!

**Q How can we repent in a right way that pleases God and helps us to grow as people?**

In our last lesson we spoke on the importance of having a strong foundation within us. The Bible says that solid rock is the only type of foundation that can sustain us through all the adversity that happens in life. A construction worker would know that if he wants to build on solid rock he will first have to remove or dig out all of the dirt. So also we will have to remove the dirt (or stuff that is unstable within us) if we are to make contact with Christ, our rock.

**Q Read Isaiah 26:4 and discuss how we can effectively place our trust in Christ?**

It is good that we are honest about our true condition before God.

**Q Talk about why you might find it hard to be honest?**

We can always be confident of God's acceptance and love when we come to Him with our sin. Without divine intervention we are lost and without real direction. Also we are bound to sinful ways that fall short of His Holiness and are without any real future hope. Repentance involves us being fully aware of such a hopeless state and is actually involves us taking God's side against ourselves. Charles Finney said "It implies a conviction that God is wholly right and the sinner wholly wrong, and a thorough and hearty abandonment of all the excuses and apologies for sin."

**Q Can you see a link between a person having a repentant heart and that person possessing other godly attributes such as having a humble spirit?**

**Q Do you understand that value in living a life with a repentant heart?**

**Q How can having a repentant heart and having a healthy self esteem co-exist?**

For further reading, 2 Cor.7:10, 2 Pet.3:9, Ps.24:4-5, Ps.25:8-9, Prov.22:4, James 2:12