

# Family Experience - Repent

## Theme Builder Activities

To help get your kids engaged in today's discussion, start out with one of these ideas that have to do with repenting. If you have a mix of the age groups, do a little of each.

- For PreK through Early Elementary: Play a game of "What Time Is It Mr. Fox?" which acts out the idea of turning away and turning towards (repenting).
- For 8-year-olds through High School: Secret Leader can be a fun game for your family, especially if you have a large family. Family members will sit in a circle with one person who is "it." A secret leader will have the family changing actions while the person who is "it" is trying to figure out who that leader is. No need to prep and you can play for as long or as short a period of time as you like. For full game rules, check <http://www.group-games.com/> and search for *Follow The Leader*, or go to <http://www.group-games.com/action-games/follow-the-leader.html>.

*Transition for younger option: "When we repent from our sins, it's kind of like this game – we're heading the wrong way towards sin and we need to turn from it and change our ways."*

*Transition for older option: "When we repent from our sins, we have to do more than just feel badly about our sin. We need to change our behavior as well."*

## Teaching

- Read Joshua 24:21-24 together. Pick a version the youngest person in the family can understand.
- Watch Mike's Teaching Video.

## Discussion

Based on the ages of your kids, choose from the discussion topics below to foster a good faith conversation with your children.

- Discuss today's video. What did you think of as Mike was talking? When Mike talked about how we are not really as lost as we think we might be, how did that make you feel? When Mike said we need to get good at repenting, what does it look like to repent every day?
- In verse 23, Joshua commands the people to throw away their foreign gods and to give themselves completely to God. Discuss as a family the things that keep us from giving ourselves completely to God.
- In the daily reading on Day 15 you wrote down the idols in your life. If appropriate, share some of these with your family, in particular any of them that have caused your family pain. Make sure that they know it is safe to be honest in your home and emphasize the grace that is ours through Jesus.
- Using the 3 steps in the Daily Reading on Day 16, teach your kids what it means to repent. (This would be a great time to use the Fire Pit idea below in the Optional Family Activities.)
  - Tell God He's right.
  - Tell God you're wrong.
  - Tell him you want to "throw away" your sins.

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- Referring to the reading on Day 18, talk as a family about how stopping sinful behavior or habits is hard. Repenting means to change your mind, and that means that you not only turn away from sin, but turn towards God. How can turning to God help you overcome the temptation to continue to stay in your sin? What does it look like to turn to God?
- Read Matthew 18:21-22 and talk about the how Jesus painted a picture of ridiculous forgiveness. First of all, he told Peter that he should never stop forgiving. Talk about how Jesus would not command us to do something he would not do. Talk about how the servant in the parable owed more money that he could ever pay back, and how that is a picture of our sin. Read 1 John 1:9. Consider using the *Optional Family Activity: Quiet Time* as a follow up to this conversation.

## Life Application

- God wants us to be completely His. He wants us to get rid of the things that keep us from that (Hebrews 12:1). As a family, we can help each other by praying for each other (Hebrews 13:18), calling each other out when we see things that others might be blind to (Colossians 3:16), and forgiving each other as God has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32).
- Repentance is something we should do every day. We need to confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness, and he promises to forgive us (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9).

## Family Activities:

- Fire Pit – Have a fire in the fire pit and give each person a piece of paper. Give them time to think and pray on their own. Have them write down a sin (or a list of sins) on their paper and encourage them to repent of that sin. When they are ready, have them throw their paper in the fire as they ask God to forgive them of their sins. You can read out loud as a family or have each person read on their own verses like Psalm 103:8-13 (God removes our sin as far as the east is from the west); 1 John 1:9 (God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins); Isaiah 43:25 (remembers your sins no more); Micah 7:18-19 (delights in mercy – hurled our sins to the bottom of the sea); Colossians 1:13-14 (rescued us – we have the redemption and forgiveness of sins). Wrap up saying, “Just like we cannot reach into the fire and pull our papers back out, God cannot bring your sin back on you. He chooses to forget – to not hold that against you anymore – and that’s a promise. Only the devil will try to continue to accuse you of that sin, but God has taken it away and we are no longer guilty of it. That’s forgiveness.”
- Quiet Time (Older kids) – We have included below some lists of sins that Paul includes in his letters. After your discussion time, give everyone time and space to reflect on today’s topic by going through a list or two (or all of them). Have each person ask God to reveal his or her sin as they think through the list. Encourage them to spend time praying and repenting, asking God for his forgiveness and the strength to change.
  - Romans 1:26-31
  - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
  - Galatians 5:19-21
  - Ephesians 4:25-31
  - Colossians 3:5-7
  - 2 Timothy 3:1-7