

# MIDWEEK EVENT

This week's main point is: Jesus was humbled and exalted for God's glory and our salvation.

**SCRIPTURE** | Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 3:21-26; 5:1-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

## THEOLOGY CONNECTION | REPENTANCE

Repentance is a response to God's gracious call to salvation. It includes a genuine sorrow for one's sin (Luke 5:1-11), a turning away from one's sin toward Christ (Acts 26:15-20), and a life that reflects lasting change and transformation (Ps. 119:57-60). It is the human counterpart to God's work of regeneration; in other words, the human side of our conversion.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Because of sin, we are destined for death and destruction. But when we repent and trust in Jesus to save us, turning from our old ways, He forgives and restores our relationship with Him.

## 1 ROMANS 3:21-26; 5:1-21

### REPENTANCE REQUIRES RECOGNIZING WHO GOD IS.

We've defined sin as choosing to disobey God; we've also called this "willful disobedience." But have you ever found yourself asking, "What's the big deal about obeying God, especially if I'm already saved?" Here's the thing: whether you're repenting for salvation or repenting of sin once you're saved, repentance happens because we've recognized who God is and who we are in relation to Him. Think about it: We repent of our sin for salvation when the Holy Spirit convicts us of the truth that God created us to live in perfect relationship with Him and we would never be able to do that because we are sinners who live in a world broken by sin. But even after we're saved, we'll mess up. Though we're covered by Jesus's perfect righteousness, we won't walk in righteousness perfectly. So, then, we repent of our sin when we remember that God is holy and the only holiness we have comes to us through Jesus. We repent of our sin when we realize we've done something that goes against His design for us, His Word, or the Holy Spirit's guidance. But all of this falls through if we don't know who God is: He is the Creator of the world. He is holy. He is just and righteous. And He can't be in the presence of sin. But He is also good, gracious, merciful, and loving. So, He provided Jesus to make a way for us to be in His presence despite the fact that we are sinners. So, repentance is, in part, about recognizing who God is and turning toward Him.

- › **TAKE A LOOK AT THE CHARACTER TRAITS OF GOD LISTED IN THE PARAGRAPH ABOVE. WHICH STANDS OUT TO YOU MOST?**
- › **WHAT DOES THAT CHARACTER TRAIT TELL YOU ABOUT GOD?**
- › **WHY DO YOU THINK WE SOMETIMES FORGET THAT ALL SINS, EVEN THE ONES THAT FEEL SMALL, ARE A FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE WHO GOD IS?**
- › **WHAT PRACTICES CAN YOU BUILD INTO YOUR DAY TO HELP YOU REMEMBER WHO GOD IS?**

# MIDWEEK EVENT

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EXODUS 20:1-17; ROMANS 3:23; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

### REPENTANCE REQUIRES RECOGNIZING OUR SIN.

However, repentance also requires turning away from something: our sin. But how can we turn away from something that we don't recognize? When we trust in Jesus for salvation, the Holy Spirit helps us recognize that we are sinners and leads us to turn away from sin and toward God. In our daily lives as believers, though, this is somewhat circular in that the more we know God and read His Word, the easier we'll recognize sin because most of it is spelled out for us. And what isn't explicitly spelled out for us, the presence of the Holy Spirit within us points out to us.

In our main session this week, we saw David recognize his sin another way, though: through the confrontation of a friend. David's reaction to Nathan's story was swift and severe, and almost as soon as Nathan said, "You are the man!" (2 Sam. 12:7)—and he didn't mean that as an encouragement—David recognized that He had "sinned against the LORD" (2 Sam. 12:13). Because we've seen much of David's faith journey up to this point, including the literal slaying of a giant, we know he knew God and loved God. Like we've studied, Scripture even called David "a man after [God's] own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14). This is how David recognized his sin: he knew God and he knew Scripture. He also knew when to listen to godly friends and leaders in his life. We can follow David's example by studying Scripture, praying and listening for God as we pray, paying attention to the Holy Spirit's leading, and listening to the godly influences in our lives—especially when they call us out and tell us we're doing something wrong. Living this way takes attention, humility, and a deep love for God and others.

- › **WHAT ARE SOME SINS YOU KNOW OFF THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD THAT ARE LISTED IN SCRIPTURE?**
- › **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY CALLS SIN?**
- › **WHEN IS IT EASY TO FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT'S CONVICTION OF SIN? WHEN IS IT MORE DIFFICULT?**
- › **WHO HAS CONFRONTED YOU ABOUT YOUR SIN IN THE PAST? HOW DID THAT PERSON PROVIDE A GOOD OR BAD EXAMPLE OF GODLY HELP?**
- › **HOW DO YOU THINK GOD IS LEADING YOU TO FOLLOW DAVID'S EXAMPLE RIGHT NOW?**

## WRAP UP

On a whiteboard write out some characteristics of God: loving, holy, eternal, just, merciful, gracious, faithful, immutable (unchanging), omnipotent (all-powerful), omnipresent (everywhere), omniscient (all-knowing), infinite (without origin, self-existent), good, righteous, sovereign, transcendent (unique). Place students in pairs or groups, enough so that each group can select a different characteristic and no characteristic is left out. Write out numbers on small slips of paper, one for each group, and place them in a cup. Each group will draw a number to determine the order they get to come to the board and select their characteristic. Call each number and allow students to check off their selection. Once each team has an attribute, give them each a sheet of paper and writing utensil. Tell them to write down two things: a Scripture where they see a mention or an example of this characteristic and an example from one of their group member's lives where they've seen this characteristic of God in action. Allow time for each group to read their verse aloud and share their example. As you dismiss, pray over students, asking God to help them know Him better each day so they can recognize and repent of their sin to continue a healthy relationship with Him.