

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing our series on Growing in your relationship with God. Today's topic: THE NEED FOR REPENTANCE AND THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS.

1) A call to repent

- a. Read Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 3:1-2, Acts 2:38 What do all these appeals have in common?
- b. What is repentance?
- c. Why did Jesus instruct His disciples to preach a message of repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name in all the nations? Romans 3:23, 2 Peter 3:9
- d. When did you first become aware that you were a sinner and needed to repent of your sins?
- e. Some people repent out of fear. What can we learn from the testimony of the Apostle Paul to Christians in Rome? Romans 2:4
- f. Who convicts us of the need to repent of our sins? John 16:7-8
- g. Is repentance a one-time event or will we need to repent more than once in our lives? 1 John 2:1
- h. What is the difference between genuine repentance and regret for the negative results of our sin? Matthew 3:8, Proverbs 4:14-15, etc.
- i. Where do you see genuine repentance revealed in the prayer of David after committing adultery with Bathsheba? Psalm 51:1-11
- j. What lessons can we learn about genuine repentance from the parable of Jesus about a Pharisee and a tax collector? Luke 18:9-14

- k. How has your understanding of repentance expanded as you have grown in your relationship with God? (sins of commission and omission)
- l. What is the relationship between repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ? Acts 20:21

2) The gift of forgiveness

- a. What blessings come from God when we experience true repentance and confess our sins? Acts 2:38, 3:18-19, 1 John 1:9, etc.
- b. What is your testimony about the blessings you have experienced when you have experienced genuine repentance and confessed your sin?
- c. How would you respond to a person who says, "I feel too ashamed and unworthy to ask for forgiveness"?
- d. In Revelation 7:13-14 we see a picture of the redeemed clothed in white robes. How have they experienced this complete cleansing? (see also Matthew 22:1-14)
- e. What promises of God's Word remind us that He is merciful to all who cry out to Him for forgiveness and cleansing? Psalm 103:8, John 6:37, etc.

