

Small Group Guide: Repentance and Restoration - Godly Sorrow vs. Worldly Sorrow

Opening Prayer: Begin your session with a prayer, asking God to guide your discussion and help everyone apply the lessons from the sermon to their lives.

Key Takeaways:

1. Godly sorrow (guilt) leads to repentance and positive change, while worldly sorrow (shame) leads to destructive patterns.
2. Conviction from the Holy Spirit is specific and surgical, while accusation from the enemy is general and condemning.
3. Sin often starts with small compromises rather than outright rebellion.
4. We must be careful not to judge others harshly while minimizing our own sins.
5. Genuine repentance leads to immediate forgiveness through Christ's atonement.

Discussion Questions:

1. What's the difference between guilt and shame? How have you experienced each in your life?
2. The sermon mentions that "accusation and condemnation are general, but conviction is surgical." Can you share an experience where you felt convicted by the Holy Spirit about a specific issue?
3. How does the story of David's sin and repentance challenge or encourage you in your own walk with God?
4. Discuss the statement: "When we fail to take our own sin seriously, it causes us to magnify the sins of others." How have you seen this play out in your life or in the church?
5. How does understanding Christ's atonement change our perspective on forgiveness and justice?
6. The sermon mentions that repentance is not a one-time event but a lifelong orientation. What challenges do you face in maintaining an attitude of repentance?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, pay attention to your thought patterns. When you notice condemning or accusatory thoughts, practice replacing them with truth from Scripture.
2. Identify an area in your life where you might be making small compromises. What steps can you take to address this before it leads to bigger issues?
3. Take time to journal about areas where you need to repent. Confess these to God and, if appropriate, to a trusted friend or mentor.
4. Practice extending grace to others this week, remembering that we all struggle with sin and need God's forgiveness.
5. Memorize 1 John 1:9 as a reminder of God's faithfulness to forgive when we confess our sins.

Closing Prayer: Close your session by praying Psalm 51:10-12 together, asking God to create pure hearts and restore the joy of salvation in each group member.