

HOMEGROUP QUESTIONS Mark 4-11 and Acts 19 1-8) : TURNING TO GOD

I've provided lots of questions but I've divided them up into four sections: choose which section or sections you would like to discuss.

1. REPENTANCE : TURNING FROM

Read EPHESIANS 4 : 22-23:

You were taught to leave your old self. This means that you must stop living the evil way you lived before. That old self gets worse and worse, because people are fooled by the evil they want to do. You must be made new in your hearts and in your thinking.

Today we tend to to associate the word 'repent 'with being remorseful or regretful , with recognising our sinfulness:

1. What do you think repentance means?
2. Why did John the Baptist think that people needed to repent?
3. Have you ever told someone they should repent for what they have said or done or failed to do? If you have, what was that person's response?
4. How do you respond if someone thinks you ought to repent over something you've done?
5. What encourages repentance?
6. Can you think of an issue that you need to address with yourself? Or with someone close to you?
7. Can we repent on our own or do we require the Holy Spirit to prompt us and give us the power to repent?

2. REPENTANCE: WASHING AWAY YOUR SINS

Read ACTS 22: 16. Ananias says to Paul:

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptised and wash your sins away, calling on his name

1. If a non-Christian asked you to explain to them what sin is, what would you say?
2. What does it mean to have your sins washed away?
3. Is there any sin that God will not forgive?

3. REPENTANCE: TURNING TO GOD

Read ACTS 26:20

I began telling people to change their hearts and lives and turn back to God. And I told them to do what would show that they had really changed. I went first to people in Damascus. Then I went to

Jerusalem and to every part of Judea and told the people there. I also went to the non-Jewish people.

In the sermon a link was made between Moses' speech in Deuteronomy 30 on the significance of crossing the River Jordan and John's use of the river for baptism. Both men were asking people to say: I WILL TURN TO GOD. I WILL LET HIM CHANGE ME. I WILL MAKE A NEW START. I WILL DO WHAT GOD WANTS. I WILL WALK IN GOD'S WAY. I WILL CHOOSE LIFE. I WILL CHOOSE LIFE FOR MY SAKE AND FOR MY CHILDREN'S SAKE. I WILL CHOOSE LIFE AND ENTER THE PROMISED LAND

1. What does it mean to turn to God?
2. How willing are you to let God change you?
3. Have there been times in your life when you have felt compelled to make a fresh start? In the sermon part of the morning prayer of Mary Bosanquet was read out. Do we need to make a fresh start every day?
4. How do we discover what God wants us to do?
5. What does the phrase 'walking in God's way' mean to you?
6. Moses and Jesus both talked about the importance of choosing 'life '. What do you think they meant by that?
7. Jesus talked about 'life abundant'. What did he mean by that?
8. What is 'the promised land' to you?

4. REPENTANCE: MAKING A VOW

1. Baptism is about making promises to God. What promises have you made to God?
2. Do you:
 - R - Reach out to God**
If you do, how do you do that?
 - E - Embrace his love**
If you do, what impact does that have?
 - P - Pray for him to enter your heart**
How important is prayer?
 - E - Experience his forgiveness**
Do you feel forgiven?
 - N - Never turn your back on what God wants**
What are the things that stop us from doing what God wants?
 - T - Trust God to give you joy, peace, hope, love - life abundant**
Life is often very difficult. What difference does your faith make to the way you handle the situations you find yourself in?