

Family Devotional

From November 20, 2016

Try this: Have two people stand on opposite sides of the room and place another person in the middle. Have the two people on either side give encouragement or promises for what will happen if the person in the middle comes to their side. These can be real or fake offers, just make sure everyone knows if you are pretending or being serious before you start. The idea is for both sides to make offers the person in the middle would really want, but they must choose which side they will walk to. They can only choose one side, not both.

Once the person in the middle has made their choice and starts to walk towards one side, stop them before they reach that person and ask, "What would you have to do if you decided you were wrong and you wanted to go to the other person?"

They would have to turn around and start walking the other direction, leaving everything the other person is offering, behind. This is a perfect example of what the Bible is talking about when it says, "Repent".

Repentance means we turn away from whatever is outside of God's will and start walking towards Him. It's more than just saying we're sorry. It's asking for forgiveness and deciding to make different choices in the future.

Let's read a story about Daniel and his prayer of repentance.

Read: Daniel 9:4-11a, 17-19

Reflect: What do you hear Daniel saying in this prayer?

Why do you think people choose to walk away from God and His plans?

Just like in our activity, both sides had good things to offer. Sometimes choosing to follow Jesus sounds really difficult and restricting and the things the enemy has to offer sound fun and easy. That was why the Israelites had turned away from God. They saw what all the people around them were doing and it looked like fun. However, once they went that direction and found themselves in the middle of it, they realized God was right. The things He was telling them to do were good and meant to protect them.

Reread verse 18: Here Daniel reminds us repentance is not based on us or how good we can be, but it's actually based on God's mercy and righteousness. We choose to repent when we see our brokenness in light of God's holiness. God does not ask us to clean ourselves up before we come to Him. We turn and run into His waiting arms and He restores us, making us like new.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on 2 Chronicles 7:14 this week.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond:

"Dear God, thank you for your mercy and patience! Help us to see where we and our world are broken and bring it to you. Thank you for making us like new and helping us follow your will.....Amen!"