

CATEGORY

Biblical Manhood

TITLE

Repentance and Grace

REFERENCE

Joel 2:12–14

• orange merit •

Joel

LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 4



FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will discover God's view of repentance.

KEY POINT

With God's help, I will repent when I sin against God.

KEY VERSE

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." **Joel 2:12**

Note: Boys are not required to memorize the Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

REFLECT ANSWERS

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys' sheet.

- Admitting your mistake and not doing the same thing again. To repent you must have a change of mind, heart, and direction..
- It requires a change of direction.
- To restore our relationship with God.



MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 4



KEY THOUGHTS

KEY POINT

With God's help, I will repent when I sin against God.

KEY VERSE

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." **Joel 2:12**



READ

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. Joel 2:12-14

To repent is to have a change of heart, mind, and direction. It means to stop going one way and to head in the opposite way, by your own choice. To repent is not simply to say, "I'm sorry." That is usually needed, but it's more important to have a change in attitude and behavior.

In Joel's day, God's people turned away from Him. They worshipped false gods. And they

refused to obey to Him. They went through several cycles of falling away, being punished, repenting, and being restored. So, God needed to get their attention. By punishing them severely, He wanted to awaken their hearts and bring them back. His ultimate goal was to bless them.

God wants the same for us. Sometimes God allows us to see hard times in order to bring us back on course. When we fail to obey God, He will try to correct our course. This may be unpleasant, but if it results in turning us back to God, then it is worth the pain.

When we see our sin, we must repent. This begins with admitting our mistakes to God. He already knows our sin, but what we need to do is empty out the bad things from our heart. That makes room for the good things God wants to give us. Admitting what we have done is also about taking responsibility for our sin.

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After we confess, we must change. The great news is that we don't have to do it alone. On our own, it's not possible to escape sin. God will help us to overcome sin and will provide opportunities to strengthen our faith. As we rely on God, He will stand with us and help to keep us from sin.

The final step is thanksgiving. When God forgives our sin, we need to express our thanks to Him for His grace. We can praise Him for His forgiveness and for the blessings He freely gives His people.

Repentance brings change. When you truly turn from your sin and choose to obey God, He will bless you and keep you in His will. God's love for you is deep and rich, and He wants the best for your life.



REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- What are the keys to true repentance?
- Why is repentance more than an apology?
- What is the purpose of repentance?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You for offering me forgiveness and freedom from sin. Help me to honor You, and to repent of any sin in my life. I want to obey Your commands and live for You. Amen.



RESPOND

As a group, discuss repentance. Look up 1 John 1:9 and talk about God's promises to His people. Remember that repentance isn't just for unbelievers. It's also for Christians who have sinned.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A recommended plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at royalrangers.com. Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.