

Children's Ministry 4^{thru} K

January 17th || Matthew 4:12-25

Main Point: **Turn from sin, Turn to Jesus**

(Try to repeat the main point several times.)

In Mark 1:15, Jesus says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

His message was quite simple. John the Baptist told people that the kingdom was coming. Jesus says that in Him it is here. Since Jesus has come, the call is to turn from sin and believe the gospel.

Read pp 210-213 of [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#).

Driving it

home...

"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent."—Revelation 3:19

Repentance is often a harsh sounding word, but we shouldn't think of it as such. If God loves us, He stirs our heart to see the need to repent and causes us to do it. Therefore, repenting from sin to turn to Jesus is a sign that you love God! We should turn to Jesus, not simply because we have to, but because we WANT to!



Open your Bible to Matthew 4. (You don't have to read it, I just want the kids to see that the authority comes from God's Word.) Jesus preached that repentance must happen to enter the Kingdom of God. This means that we turn away from sin and turn to Jesus. This looks a lot like the disciples when Jesus called them. They turned from their boat and followed Jesus.

Repentance example: Show the kids the animal cookies in your hands. Then have them turn their backs to you, facing the wall. Now, ask them what they would need to do to get the cookies. (turn from wall and turn toward you). This is a picture of repentance.

Time permitting, share about Martin Luther

By the year 1517, the church had messed up quite a few things, and wasn't very clear about the gospel anymore. Martin Luther, a German monk, wrote 95 things the church needed to change to be more Biblical. His very first item was about repentance. Luther wrote:

"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

Luther was saying that the Bible teaches that a child of God will repent every time He sees his sin, not just once in his life to get saved. When we become a believer, Jesus gives us a desire to obey Him. When we see we haven't, our reaction should be to repent and turn back to Jesus. Every time.

Ask the kids: Has Jesus caused me to turn from my sin?