

Day 1: Repentance is not an angry demand, but a loving call.

Read Ezekiel 18:30-32, and ask your children:

1. Who is God calling to repent?
2. What should they do with their sin?
3. What will happen if they do not repent?
4. Will God take joy in their death?

God calls the people of Israel to repent. His motivation is revealed in that He loves Israel. While God knows who will repent and is the One who can give us the new heart and new spirit He calls for, it is important to see He does not rejoice in punishing sin. It is His plan and it brings Him glory—which He loves—but is not a joy to Him. (Much like disciplining our own children brings the joy of godly children, but doesn't mean we enjoy doing the discipline.)

Day 2: Repentance is a gift from God.

Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26, and ask your children:

1. Who is the Lord's bond-servant?
2. How should we teach those who disagree?
3. Who is holding them captive?
4. What might God do for them?

Paul tells Timothy that he should correct people patiently and gently. Because though the person is under the devil's authority and are slaves to sin, God can grant repentance. This means that repentance is a gift given by God. He is the one who makes it possible for us to repent.

Day 3: Repentance is necessary after you are saved too.

Read Revelation 3:19-21, and ask your children:

1. Who are the ones God reproves and disciplines?
2. If we desire to be with God, will He keep Himself away?
3. Who is the One who overcame?
4. Where does Jesus say we will be?

Many people think of verse 3:20 as an "evangelism" verse, but the context really says more than that. Jesus is writing to a church (believers). He acknowledges that He loves them, and He calls them to repent of what they are doing. And if they repent, they have great fellowship with Christ.

Day 4: We are to call other people to repent.

Read Luke 24:45-49 and ask your children:

1. Where did Jesus' message come from?
2. What work did the Old Testament say Jesus would accomplish?
3. What work did the Old Testament say we would accomplish?
4. What does God give us for this task?

Jesus left the disciples with the understanding of His death and resurrection. He explained to the disciples that the Old Testament had always stated what He would need to do. But then, He also shows the disciples that the Old Testament says repentance and the forgiveness of sins in His name is to be proclaimed in all of the world. That hasn't completely happened yet. (40% of the population is in a people group that has not heard the gospel.)