

# SMALL GROUP Q'S

The Essence of Repentance

October 2, 2016

Luke 3:1-22

- 1.) When you think of “repentance,” what comes to mind? Is it something someone should do often or very rarely? When was the last time you specifically remember repenting of something particular?
- 2.) John was a unique messenger sent to prepare the way for the Messiah by preparing people’s hearts to receive the Promised One. What things or people does God use in your heart to prepare it to embrace Jesus as your Deliverer?
- 3.) How would you explain how John’s very strong warning toward repentance can be described as “good news”?
- 4.) Discuss together the OT prophets’ strong warnings about the danger of empty religious formalism. How do you see that struggle in our culture today? Where do you see it in your own heart and life?
- 5.) What does it mean that repentance has “fruit”? Suppose you don’t see any or “enough” fruit of repentance in your life, how should you respond? What could the root issue be, and how should you/should you NOT address it?
- 6.) What is one particular fruit of repentance that should be increasing in your life, and how can your small group be praying for you in that regard?
- 7.) The last section of this passage focuses on the identity of Jesus as the Messiah and beloved Son of God. How is this meant to be a comfort to repentant believers, even as we struggle with the fruit?
- 8.) In your own marriage or a marriage you have watched, how have you seen the relationship change what one spouse values over time? How does our relationship with Jesus compare with that reality?
- 9.) Luther, Calvin, John the Baptist, and Jesus all urge believers to a “lifestyle of repentance.” What does that look like, and what seems to be the biggest obstacle in your life to that kind of lifestyle?



For more information about Southwood or Small Groups visit: [southwood.org](http://southwood.org)