BECOME Disciples

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Session: The First Mark of a Disciple:
Loving God

Receiving & Repentance

Participant Guide

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Become Disciples: Receiving & Repentance
Session: The First Mark of a Disciple: Loving God
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Getting Started:

The Bible reveals **God, His love, and our response to Him.** Jesus came to reveal the Father's love and show us how to live in response to it.

Christian life begins with **revelation.** Until someone sees and understands God's love, they cannot truly receive it or respond to it.

Discipleship begins with **identity.** The revelation of God's love establishes us as God's children before anything else defines us.

"See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1 NLT.

Once God's love is revealed, obedience becomes a **response,** not an attempt to earn His love.

Christianity is the response of loved people loving God back.

Why Repentance Matters:

When we realise how deeply God loves us, we also begin to see how often we have lived against Him.

That is why **repentance is the first response to God's love.**

Sin is not only breaking God's law.
It is also failing to love the God who loves us.

"There is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1 CSB.

Because of Jesus, we are dead to sin and alive to God.

"So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." Romans 6:11 CSB.

Repentance and Renewal:

True transformation requires the renewal of the mind, and the renewal of the mind begins with repentance.

Repentance is agreeing with God about your past, seeing your actions, words, and motives from His perspective.

The Six Steps of Repentance

Step 1: Knowledge of Sin

Repentance begins when we see sin as God sees it.

- **Natural knowledge** sees sin mainly through consequences.
- **Godly knowledge** sees sin as an offence against God that also harms ourselves and others.

"My sin is always before me." Psalm 51:3

Repentance begins when we stop seeing sin lightly and start seeing it rightly.

Step 2: Sorrow for Sin

There are two kinds of sorrow:

Natural sorrow is rooted in shame, exposure, and consequences.
Godly sorrow is rooted in grieving God and leads to change.

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation."
2 Corinthians 7:10 CSB.

Godly sorrow does not push us away from God; it draws us back to Him.

Step 3: Confession of Sin

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us.” 1 John 1:9 CSB.

Confession is not image management.
It is a**greeing with God** and bringing sin into the light.

True confession is:

- honest
- specific
- without excuses
- without shifting blame

Step 4: Renouncing Sin

“Whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.” Proverbs 28:13 CSB.

Repentance is not complete until sin is renounced.

Renouncing sin means:

- removing access points
- creating distance from temptation
- changing direction

Renunciation is not moderation. It is separation.

Step 5: Restitution

“If I have extorted anything from anyone, I’ll pay back four times as much.” Luke 19:8 CSB.

Restitution may include:

- apology
- repayment
- correction
- restoring someone’s name

Restitution does not earn forgiveness, but it proves repentance.

Step 6: Receiving Forgiveness

God not only forgives; He also cleanses.

“Though your sins are scarlet, they will be as white as snow.” Isaiah 1:18 CSB.

Do not:
- take forgiveness lightly
- refuse forgiveness after repentance

To God:
you are forgiven
you are cleansed
you are loved
your past no longer defines

Identity statement:
Because of Jesus, I am **forgiven, cleansed, free, and justified.**

Personal Exercise:

Sin often shows up in four main areas:
- lies
- sexual sin
- money
- pride

For this session, focus on lies and sexual sin.

Private Reflection
1. Make a private list of lies you have spoken, lived, or reinforced through attitude.
2. Make a second list of sexual sins in thought, words, or actions. Bring them before God in repentance.

If needed, speak with your trusted disciple-maker.
When the process is complete, destroy the list as a symbolic act of closure.
What is confessed, renounced, and forgiven no longer has authority over you.