

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2023

Class Curriculum - The Way of Salvation

Age - Junior Campers

Thursday - Repentance

Summary

1. Subject: Repentance
2. Scripture: Acts 3:19. Acts 17:30
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Know the definition of repentance, and the importance of it in our spiritual lives
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Story

10-15 minutes

If you would like to use a character study from scripture to begin class, an example is provided below. If this story is already integrated into your week of camp, feel free to use a different narrative from scripture that examines repentance.

Saul/Paul

Saul/Paul is one of the best examples of repentance in scripture. Using Acts 8:1-3, Acts 9, and Acts 11:19-30, recount the story of Saul's conversion to your class. A brief summary is listed below: please read the full account yourself and teach the story at an age-appropriate level to your class.

- Saul was a Jew (and Pharisee) alive at the time of Jesus
- Saul persecuted Christians because he didn't believe in Jesus

- At the time, he thought he was doing the right thing
- Saul is confronted by Jesus on the road to Damascus. He loses his sight and Jesus speaks to him
- Saul gets to Damascus where he is treated well by a Christian who lives there, Ananias
- After three days, Saul is baptized. His sight is restored
- He immediately starts to teach others about Jesus
- He eventually changes his name to Paul to mark the new life he now lives

This story displays repentance. Not just in the sense that Saul stops committing the sin of persecuting Christians, but also in the fact that he turned his life around to faithfully serve God.

Lesson

Discussion: What is repentance?

10-15 Minutes

Guided Discussion: Ask the question, “What is repentance?” or “What does it mean to repent?” Make sure they understand the literal definition of repentance is, “to turn around”. Usually, we think of repentance as a command to stop sinning. Instead, it is more accurate to think of it as, “stop sinning, and then...”. True repentance is followed by righteous living. We are turning away from our sin and turning toward God.

Ask your campers for examples of people repenting, and going in a new direction in the bible. Some notable examples are the following:

- Saul/Paul
- Jonah, literally going in the wrong direction before “turning around” to go to Nineveh and follow God’s orders
- Israel, as a nation, on many occasions. Most notably, going against God’s will so much that He allowed them to be taken captive by Babylon. Then they repented and were allowed to return and rebuild Israel

Make sure your campers understand that true repentance means committing to a new direction. Use examples like the following:

- If you fight with your siblings, “repenting” from that doesn’t mean that you stop fighting. It means that you stop fighting and instead are kind and patient with them
- If you are cheating in school, “repenting” doesn’t just mean that you stop cheating. It means you stop cheating and put in the effort to honestly do your best

Scripture

- a. Acts 3:19
 - a. This verse is straightforward. Repentance of our sins is part of the process that “blots out” our sins. It is a necessary part of our spiritual lives.
- b. Acts 17:30
 - a. This verse is important in our understanding of repentance. God has called all people to repent. This includes you and me. Your campers may be too young to have a need of repentance, but this verse can help them understand the eventual need they will have.

Activity/Illustration

Remaining Time

“Cottonball Hockey”

Materials: a bag of cotton balls, and some kind of soft stick (paper towel tube, pool noodle, etc)

Give each camper a cotton ball and a “hockey stick”. Select one or two campers to be the “distractions” (these campers do not need a personal cotton ball). Mark a starting point, and a finish line, on either side of a small playing field. Your “distractions” can roam anywhere within the playing field, and their job is to push cotton balls back to the starting point. Every other camper's job is to get their personal cotton ball across the finish line. The first camper to cross the finish line can be the “distraction” next round.

Application: this game is meant to help campers understand that repentance is a continual process. Once we have “turned around” and are striving toward God, there may be many distractions or setbacks. Our job as Christians is to live a life of continual repentance where we are always pushing toward the goal.

“Clapping Clues”

One person is selected to go out of the room. The rest of the group picks an object for the person to find. The person returns to try to find the object. The group will clap their hands for the person. As the person gets closer to the object, the clapping should become louder and more enthusiastic. If the person gets farther away from the object, the clapping should become quieter and softer. When the person finds the object, a new seeker is selected and you can play again.

Application: this game can help students understand the benefit of having Christian friends. Finding the right direction on our own can sometimes be difficult. When we have help from our friends, teachers, and other Christians, we can easily get on the right path.