

LESSON 9—LEARNING ABOUT: REPENTANCE & FOREGIVENESS

INTRODUCTION—There are two Hebrew words and one Greek word translated “repent” by the King James Translators of the Bible. They are: In Hebrew, *Shuv*, meaning *to turn*, and *Nihom*, meaning *to be sorry* (literally: *to sigh*); In Greek the word is *Meta-noia*, meaning *changed mind*. You can see that a full concept of repentance includes all three ideas: a change of mind, being sorry and turning from old actions to new ones, from one's own will to God's will. The scriptures issue a strong call to repentance and the plan of salvation offers repentance as a blessing to all. The work of sanctification is done by progressive repentance, renouncing the sins to which we are naturally inclined as they are illuminated for us by the work of the Holy Spirit. Without this there can be no progress in the things of the soul's salvation, for all accountable persons are stained by sin, and must be cleansed in order to enter the kingdom of heaven.

1. Read D&C 18:6-22 and 41-44, D&C 19:4, D&C 29:49, D&C 82:2.
 - a. From these scriptures, list every phrase that indicates who must repent? Cite verses.

 - b. What will the “marvelous work” of 18:44 cause to happen to the children of men?

 - c. How can scripture have the effect on us spoken of in the last question?

 - d. CHALLENGE QUESTION: What *is* the “marvelous work” referred to in 18:44 and what, in light of D&C 18:44, is one of its primary purposes? See 2 Nephi 27:6-26.

 - e. PERSONAL: What is something you have felt “stirred up” (v 18:6) by the spirit to repent of? In other words, what is something that the Spirit of God has “changed your mind” about?

 - f. Name some things that may not be found in the scriptures, (perhaps because they didn't exist until the 20th century) but nevertheless, may be something that the Spirit could stir up a person to repent of?

2. Read D&C 19:13-21
 - a. How many times in these verses are we commanded to repent? Cite the verses.

 - b. Name the different things that will result to those who will not repent. Cite verses.

 - c. What necessary step in repentance is named in verse 20? _____
 And why, in your opinion, is this step so important?

 - d. Look at D&C 59:12. In light of your answer to part c, how can we appropriately use the Lord's day as a time to “confess our sins unto our brethren [and sisters]”?

3. Go back and read D&C 18:11-12, and D&C 19:16-19
a. Why can’t the unrepentant soul “come to” Jesus Christ? Cite verse.

b. What can Jesus do for the repentant sinner and how is it done?

4. Read Alma 7:21. What image does Alma use to describe our sins? _____

5. Read Alma 7:14. What image does Alma use to describe repentance? _____

6. Read Revelation 1:5 and Alma 5:27. a. What is the agent that literally brings about this process? _____

b. How do you feel about this image that describes how we must be cleansed?

7. From the following scriptures, find all the puzzle pieces that make a complete picture of repentance. List them.

D&C 1:32 _____

D&C 19:20 _____

D&C 54:3 _____

D&C 58:43 _____

D&C 82:1 _____

D&C 64:7 _____

D&C 98:47, Luke 19:8 _____

8. Read D&C 18:41-42, D&C 84:87 and D&C 20: 37. What part does repentance play in missionary work?

9. Read D&C 6:9. Who is this section given to? _____

10. Read D&C 11:9. Who is this section given to? _____

b. Do you think the same instruction would apply to anyone who wanted to be part of the work of building God’s kingdom in the latter days? Why?

c. Read D&C 19:31. Obviously, missionaries teach about other things than repentance, strictly speaking. What other basic gospel concepts would a person have to know about in order to understand repentance?

d. Do you think this strong emphasis on repentance applies beyond the conversion period? How?

11. Read the following list of scriptures and extract the specific sins the Lord is pointing out in each verse. Put a check mark by each one that applies to you. (Just kidding!)

D&C 30:1-2, D&C 58:38-41, D&C 60:2, D&C 68:31, D&C 98:20, D&C 101:6-8.

12. Read D&C 5:21, 1 Samuel 15:24, Isaiah 51:7-8, Matthew 6:2, John 12:42-43, Helaman 13:27, 1 Nephi 8:24-28.

Identify the different forms of "yielding to the persuasions of men" that are found in these scriptures. (You may want to make a scripture chain of these verses in your own scriptures.)

13. What are various ways in which LDS women today "yield to the persuasions of men"?

14. Read D&C 66:3. a. What are various ways you have observed that the Lord shows us our sins?

b. What are various ways we have of avoiding seeing them?

c. Read D&C 1:33. What happens to us if we refuse to repent when the Lord shows us our sins?

13. Read D&C 64:6-11 and D&C 132:56. If we are harboring unforgiveness in our own lives, what effect does that have on us spiritually?

b. Read Matthew 11:28. How could this scripture guide someone who needs to forgive a wrong?

c. Noting the Lord's words to Emma Smith in 132:56, why is it sometimes hardest to forgive those closest to us?

14. Read Matthew 18: 21-35, the Parable of the Unjust Servant. In light of this teaching of the Savior, why is the sin of unforgiveness so serious as to be called *worse* than the original sin that was done to the person who refuses to forgive? (See D&C 64:6-11)

14. Read D&C 64:12-14. a. What is the difference between how an individual should deal with someone who has sinned against them, and how the church as an institution is supposed to deal with serious sin?
- b. What reasons are given in this scripture for bringing serious transgression by church members "before the church," or in other words, before a church court of some kind? Cite verse.
15. Read D&C 82:1-5. This is a warning from the Lord that the saints should take seriously the revelations that the Lord gives to them. a. Why?
- b. In what way do we show or demonstrate to the Lord that we don't take his word seriously?
- c. In what way can we show the Lord that we *do* take his revelations very seriously?
16. Read D&C 58:60. a. Describe Ziba Peterson's spiritual problem.
- b. Review Alma 7:14. Why do you think that Satan tries so hard to get men and women to hide their sins from each other, from themselves and from God?
- c. Why must all repentance start with our own honesty?
17. One of the most beautiful expositions in scripture of the repentance process is found in the little book of Enos in the Book of Mormon. Read Enos 1:1-9, 17.
- a. List 4 or 5 things you learn from this story of Enos about the repentance process.
- b. What motivated Enos to seek repentance? Cite verse.
- c. How can Enos and Jacob's example help us teach the youth of the church so that they will want to repent rather than hide their sins?
18. Tell what you have taken away from this study on repentance and forgiveness that was new to you or particularly meaningful.