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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Repentance: The First Step Back to Covenant

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching explores the biblical meaning of repentance, or *teshuvah*, which means "to return" or "to turn back." Rather than defining repentance as merely feeling sorrow for sin, the lesson explains that true repentance is a deliberate return to YHWH and His covenant instructions. Throughout Scripture, repentance is consistently connected with turning away from sin and returning to faithful obedience. Ezekiel 18 and Deuteronomy 30 demonstrate that repentance leads to restoration, while continued rebellion leads to judgment.

The teaching shows that repentance is central to the message of both the prophets and Yeshua. John the Baptist prepared the way for Messiah by calling Israel to repentance, and Yeshua began His ministry with the same message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance is not a one-time event but a lifelong posture of examining our lives, turning from disobedience, and bearing fruit that demonstrates a changed heart.

The lesson explains that repentance cannot be separated from the Torah because God's commandments define both righteousness and sin. Since sin is lawlessness, repentance is a return to God's instructions. Biblical examples such as Leviticus 26 and the repentance of Nineveh illustrate that genuine repentance always produces visible change. Yeshua did not abolish the Torah but perfectly lived and taught it, providing the example believers are called to follow.

The teaching also examines repentance in relation to salvation. While salvation is by grace through faith, genuine faith produces obedience. Repentance precedes forgiveness and is closely connected with confession, baptism, and receiving the Holy Spirit. James and Paul are shown to be in harmony, teaching that saving faith results in good works prepared by God.

Finally, the lesson connects repentance with the Shema in Deuteronomy 6. Loving YHWH with all our heart is demonstrated by obeying His commandments, teaching them to future generations, and ordering every area of life according to His Word. Repentance is therefore a daily return to covenant faithfulness that brings restoration, renews our relationship with God, and prepares us for Messiah's Kingdom.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Teshuvah means "to return" or "to turn back."
- Biblical repentance is more than feeling sorry; it results in obedience.
- Repentance restores believers to covenant faithfulness.
- Deuteronomy and Ezekiel connect repentance with restoration.
- John the Baptist and Yeshua both proclaimed repentance.
- Sin is defined as lawlessness, making repentance a return to God's commandments.
- Genuine repentance produces visible fruit.
- Salvation is by grace through faith, and true faith results in obedience.
- The Shema calls believers to love YHWH through faithful obedience.
- Repentance is a daily lifestyle that prepares believers for Messiah's Kingdom.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The Hebrew word _____ means "to return" or "to turn back."
2. True repentance produces the fruit of _____.
3. Ezekiel called Israel to repent, turn, and _____.
4. John the Baptist proclaimed a baptism of _____.
5. Yeshua began His ministry by preaching _____.
6. The Shema commands us to love YHWH with all our _____.

Challenging

1. Deuteronomy _____ promises restoration when God's people return to Him.
2. First John 3:4 defines sin as _____.
3. James taught that faith without _____ is dead.

4. Repentance prepares believers for the _____ of God.
5. Revelation 14:12 describes the saints as those who keep God's _____ and their faith in Yeshua.
6. Biblical repentance restores believers to _____ faithfulness.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the biblical definition of repentance differ from the way repentance is often understood today?
2. Why is obedience an essential part of genuine repentance?
3. How do the examples of Israel and Nineveh illustrate what true repentance looks like?
4. How do grace, faith, repentance, and obedience work together according to Scripture?
5. What does the Shema teach us about loving YHWH through everyday life?
6. What practical steps can help us make repentance a daily pattern rather than a one-time event?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Teshuvah
2. Obedience
3. Live
4. Repentance
5. Repentance
6. Heart

Challenging

1. 30
2. Lawlessness
3. Works
4. Kingdom
5. Commandments
6. Covenant