

Make That Change

What Is a Disciple?
Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of the prodigal son.
- The children will define the word "repent."
- The children will tell one way that they can change to please God this week.

Lesson Text

Luke 15:11-24

Scripture Memory Verse

"Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Hidden Message

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: No Place Like Home

Craft: Change Card

Scripture Memory: Scripture Relay

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



Make That Change

Hidden Message

The children will preview today's lesson in this decoding activity.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Tell them that in today's lesson they will learn about a man who repented and changed his life to please God. Explain that their Preclass Activity will help them learn the word "repent" and what it means.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A and pencils. Encourage the children to work together.
3. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement.
4. When the children are finished, tell them to check their answers with a partner or with you.

Teacher Tips

- Give a copy of Reproducible Page A to children who arrive late to do at home.

Hidden Message

R E P E N T

Use the secret code below to find out the meaning of the word repent:

●=G ♥=A ▲=E ◆=H ♠=N ♣=C

Write the letters in the empty boxes.

C	H	A	N	G	E
♣	◆	♥	♠	●	▲

What does the word "repent" mean? change

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Make That Change

What Is a Disciple?
Lesson 3

No Place Like Home

The children will participate in the story of the prodigal son.

Materials

For the teacher:

- play money (coins and bills)
- small paper bag or plastic bag
- sheet or robe
- toy ring
- seal-tight bags, 2 gallon size
- heavy-duty tape
- “pig slop”—creamed corn, chili sauce, pea pods and canned dog food mixed together

Preparation

1. Prepare the “pig slop” mixture the same day as your class. Pour it into a seal-tight bag and reinforce the seal with heavy-duty tape. Place that bag in the second seal-tight bag and seal. Reinforce with tape.
2. Put the play money in the small paper bag.
3. Practice presenting this story with energy and feeling.

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Luke 15. Tell the children that this week’s Bible Story comes from the New Testament book of Luke. *You have been learning what it means to be a disciple. In today’s lesson, you will hear a story—called a “parable”—that Jesus told about a man and his son. Jesus told this parable to teach the people something very important about God.*

In this story, a son takes his father’s money and leaves home. He spends all his money on himself until there is nothing left. After he is lonely, hungry and very unhappy, the son realizes that he made a big mistake. He never should have left his home or his father. He realizes that he would be better off as his father’s slave than eating the pig’s food where he was. The son decides to stop living just for himself, to change his life and to go home to his father.

Even though the son expected his father to be angry, the father was so excited to see his son that he had a huge party to celebrate.

In this story, God is like the father. He loves us very much—even

when we do things that we shouldn’t do or do things that are not good for us. God wants us to realize our mistakes and change! He wants us to see that we will be happier doing things his way. Jesus wanted people to understand that if they want to be a disciple, they must first realize that they have made a lot of mistakes. Then they must decide to change and come back to God. Even though they may think that God is angry, they will see that he loves them very much!

Tell the children that they will act out this story.

Presenting the Bible Story

Choose two children to play the parts of the father and the son. Explain that you will tell the story as they act it out.

The father had a lot of money. (Hand the father the bag of play money.) *He was saving some of his money to leave for his sons after he died, this is called an inheritance. One of his sons wanted his share of the money right away. So he told his father to give it to him.* (Have the child say, “Give me my share of the money.”) (Have the father hug the son and give him the money.) *The son decided to take the money and move far, far away.* (Have the son walk away.)

In the new land far away, the son did many things that were wrong. He only cared about himself and doing what he wanted. He spent his money on wild and foolish things. (Choose a few children to come and act out fooling around.) *After a while, he ran out of money.* (Take the money away from him.) *His friends went away.* (Have the friends leave.) *Then something bad happened in the land where he was living. There was a famine—which means that there was no food. People were so hungry they would do anything for food. The son was very hungry, but he didn’t have money to buy any food. He knew he would have to find a job. He started working at a pig farm.* (Choose a few children to come and be pigs. Have them crawl around and make pig noises.) *He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs’ food!* (Hand the son the bag of pig “slop.”) *No one around him cared about him or would give him anything to eat.* (Have the pigs leave. Take away the pig slop.)

The son started remembering his life back at home with his father. He missed his home and he really missed his father. He remembered how good things were at home. He thought about how even his father’s servants had good food to eat and a place to



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sleep. He decided that he would go back home and ask his father to forgive him. He knew he didn't deserve to be his son because of all the foolish things he had done. He was going to ask his father if he could become one of the servants in his house.

He journeyed back home. While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and ran to him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. (Have the father run over and hug the son.) The son told his father he was sorry for what he had done. He begged his father to let him have a job working for him as a servant, since he knew he didn't deserve to be his son anymore. The father loved his son so much and was so happy that he had stopped living the wrong way. He told his servants to bring the best robe and put it on his son. (Place the robe around the son.) The father gave his son a ring. (Have the father put the ring on the son's finger.) He told his servants to get the very best food and prepare a feast for his son. He said, "Let's celebrate! My son was lost but now he is found!"

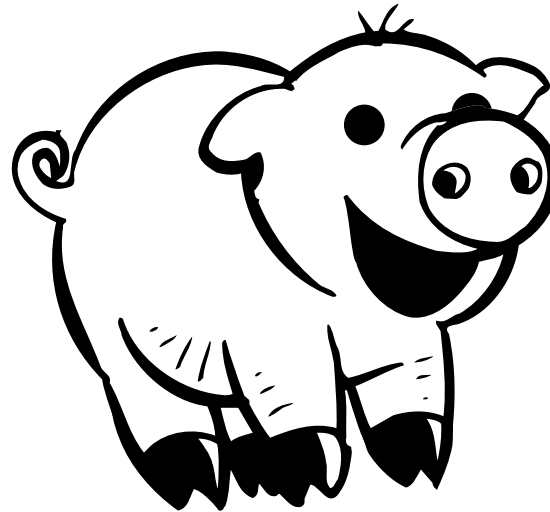
Talk to the children about how the son changed. Ask them how the son was different in his thoughts and in his actions. *How can you tell that he had changed?* Explain to the children that when a person has changed his mind and his actions, then repentance has happened.

Share and Tell

Ask the children what their favorite part of this story was. Ask them if they have ever done something that hurt their parents. Did they feel sorry about it? Ask them what they did and what happened. Encourage the children to tell this story to their parents this week. Close with a prayer thanking God for how he loves and forgives us.

Teacher Tips

- A toy ring can be purchased from a bubble gum machine or made out of construction paper and tape.
- If your budget permits, purchase enough toy rings for each child to take one as a souvenir of today's Bible Story.



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Make That Change

Change Card

The children will make cards showing a practical way that they can change.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of construction paper, 9" x 12"
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- scissors
- large writing surface
- glue stick

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Fold each piece of construction paper in half, making a card.
2. Cut out the boxes from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
3. Glue each box to the inside of a card.
4. Write the words, "I Can Change" on the large writing surface.
5. Make a sample of the finished card.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In our Bible Story today, we are learning about a young man who did something wrong. Later he was sorry for what he had done, so he stopped doing the wrong thing and apologized. All of us do things that we know are wrong sometimes, but when we do wrong, we can change. We can stop doing the wrong thing and start doing the right thing. We can act like Jesus would act. We can also say we are sorry to God and to whomever else we may have hurt by doing the wrong thing.*
2. Show the children your sample card. *Today you are going to make a card that will remind you of something that you can change and do right. This is a picture of me.* Briefly explain the wrong you did and how you will change it and do what is right.
3. Give each child a folded card, crayons and markers. Referring to the large writing surface, have the children copy the words "I Can Change" onto the front of their cards using the markers.

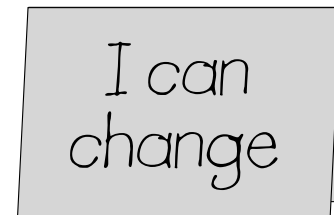
4. Help each child to think of a way that they can change to please God and their parents. Help them to think of ways that they can change at home, at school, etc. Have the children either draw a picture or write what they will change in the box inside the card.
5. Have the children write their names on the inside of their cards.

Conclusion

Ask the children to each share their cards with the class. End the class with a prayer asking God to help the children change and do the right thing.

Teacher Tips

- Help the younger children to decide what they will change and help them to write this in their boxes.



Make That Change

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cover



inside

Finished Craft



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Make That Change

Scripture Relay

The children will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse through a relay activity.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- 2 baskets or containers

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 2 copies for the teacher (on 2 different colors)

Preparation

1. Cut out the hearts from both of your copies of Reproducible Page C. Place each different colored set in a different basket.
2. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *Today you are learning what it means to repent. In your Bible Story you learn about a man who lived his life in a way that did not make God happy. The man went far away from his home to do what he wanted to do. After a while, the man ran out of money and he was all alone. He had no food to eat and he was very unhappy. He decided to go home and tell his father that he was sorry. He decided to change his life and do the things that would make God and his father happy. This man is a good example of the change that a person must make to become a disciple of Jesus. In our Scripture Memory Verse today, you will learn another way that Jesus explained how to change.*
2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to them three times as they follow along. Point to the words as you say them. Ask the children to say the verse together with you three more times.

3. Ask the children to say the verse together with you five more times, each time with increasing speed. Ask for volunteers to say it from memory.
4. Divide the children into two teams. Have them form two lines and be seated. Put the baskets about three to five feet away from their lines. Tell them that they will do a relay to see who can put the verse together the fastest.
5. Tell the children that they will hop on one foot up to the basket and take out one heart. Then they will change feet and hop back to their team. This should continue until all the hearts have been collected. Once a team has all the hearts, they must put them in the correct order of the verse. The first team to have the hearts in order and be seated is the winner.
6. Collect the hearts, mix them up and put them back in the baskets. Have the children switch places in line with each other and play another round the same way as before.

Conclusion

Ask the children to describe some little children they know. What are they like? What do they do? Explain that little children are very innocent and trusting. They are happy with very simple things and they love to be with their parents and older brothers and sisters. Explain that Jesus wants adults to understand that they must be innocent and trusting to be a disciple. They must be willing to forgive and love to spend time with God and the church. Close with a prayer thanking God for Jesus' words in the Bible.

Teacher Tips

- If your facility does not permit the children to hop, have them walk with up with one eye closed and return with the other eye closed; or with one hand raised and then the other, etc.



Make That Change

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“Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:3



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Lesson Objectives

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Lesson Text

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Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: R.E.P.E.N.T.

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Time to Change

Game: You-Turns Allowed

Bible Skills: Old or New?

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



pre
class

ACTIVITY

R.E.P.E.N.T.

The child will review this week's lesson as they decorate this fun worksheet.

Materials

For each child:

- markers or crayons
- glue stick (optional)
- decorative items: glitter, colored paper or fabric scraps, confetti, sequins, foil (optional)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page D.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Remind them that they are learning about the meaning of repentance and how disciples can change to please God. Explain that in this activity they will learn more about the meaning of repentance.
2. Have the children find a partner. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D, pencils, glue sticks and decorative items, if available. Tell the children to write in the letters of the word repent into the blanks. The new words they make will help teach them more about repenting.
3. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement.

Teacher Tips

- To extend this activity, have the children cut out the six completed phrases and mount them on construction paper.

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N**Time to Change**

The children will review this week's lesson as they think of one way that they can change to please God this week.

Materials

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Preparation

Have the children sit in a semi-circle, creating a discussion setting.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Luke 15. Read Luke 15:11-24 to the children. Ask the children the following questions:

- *What money did the son ask his father for?* (inheritance money)
- *What did the son do with the money?* (moved away; spent it on foolish things)
- *What happened to the son's money?* (it ran out)
- *What happened to the son?* (got hungry; went to work with pigs)
- *What did the son realize?* (he made a mistake; he wanted to go home)
- *What did the father do when he saw his son coming home?* (ran out to meet him)
- *How did the father feel when he saw his son?* (happy, excited)

Life Application

Ask the children if they have ever done something that later they were sorry for. Tell the children that if a person is a disciple, they will make mistakes, but God wants them to realize their mistake and change their mind and their actions!

Ask the children if they can think of something that they could change this week that would make their parents very happy. Write the children's responses on the large writing surface. Share from your own life, being careful to share personal information discreetly. Encourage the children to talk to their parents after church today about what they want to change.

Ask the children if they remember what the word repent means. (to change) Explain that a disciple of Jesus is always willing to repent and change anything that does not make God happy—just like the son in this story was willing to repent and change.

Conclusion

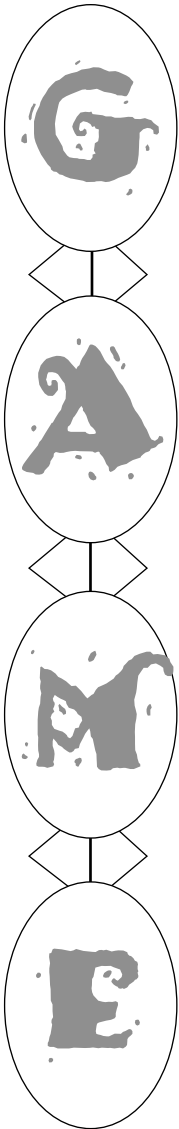
Invite each child to pray to God about the one thing that they want to change this week. Close with a prayer asking God to help all of you to repent and change to please God.

Teacher Tips

- Plan a time during the next class to follow up and ask the children how they did.

REPENT

CHANGE



You-Turns Allowed

The children will review important ideas from this week's lesson as they play this game of coming and going.

Materials

No additional materials are needed.

Preparation

Practice playing this game.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you have been learning that repentance means changing your mind and actions to please God. In our game today, you will have a chance to make some changes as you listen to verses in the Bible about repentance.*
2. Tell the children to form a circle. Explain that they will hold hands and walk together in one direction as you read different verses in the Bible. As soon as they hear you say the word "repent" then they must stop and change directions. They will continue walking until they hear you say the word "repent" again. Then they will stop and change direction again.
3. After you have finished this round, tell the children that now you will read a verse that uses the word "change" or "turn back to God." Tell them to repeat Step 2, this time stopping and changing directions when they hear the new words.
4. For the final round, tell the children to listen to all the words—repent, change, turn back to God—and for each one, stop and change directions as in Step 2.

Conclusion

Ask the children if they can think of something right now that they should change to please God. Close with a prayer for the children to make changes that please God this week.

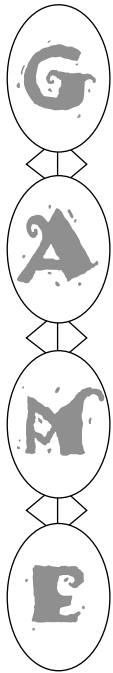
Teacher Tips

- If your space does not permit the children to walk around in a circle, have them pass a ball or potato, changing directions as explained in the game.



Make That Change

You-Turns Allowed



Repent

- Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. REPENT and believe the good news!"
- Mark 6:12 They went out and preached that people should REPENT.
- Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no! But unless you REPENT, you too will all perish."
- Luke 15:7 "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who REPENTS than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to REPENT."
- Luke 17:4 "If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I REPENT,' forgive him."
- Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "REPENT and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- Acts 3:19 "REPENT, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."
- Acts 8:22 "REPENT of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart."
- Acts 17:30 "In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to REPENT."
- Acts 26:20 "First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should REPENT and turn to God and prove their REPENTANCE by their deeds."
- Revelation 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and REPENT.

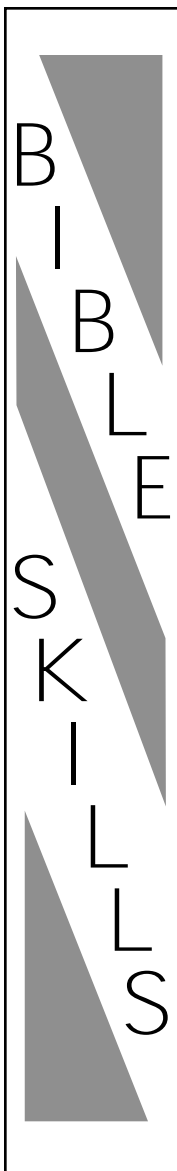
Change/Turn to God

- 1 Kings 13:33 Even after this, Jeroboam did not CHANGE his evil ways...
- Matthew 18:3 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you CHANGE and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."
- Acts 3:19 "TURN TO GOD, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."
- Acts 20:21 "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must TURN TO GOD."
- James 4:9 Grieve, mourn and wail. CHANGE your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

All the words together

- 1 Kings 8:47 "...and if they have a CHANGE of heart in the land where they are held captive, and REPENT and plead with you in the land of their conquerors and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly.'"
- 2 Chron. 6:37 "...and if they have a CHANGE of heart in the land where they are held captive, and REPENT and plead with you in the land of their captivity and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong and acted wickedly.'"
- Acts 26:20 "First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should REPENT and TURN TO GOD and prove their REPENTANCE by their deeds."





Old or New?

The children will review the location of some books in the Bible.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page E.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you are learning about the meaning of repentance. The Bible is full of verses that teach us how to change and to do what is right. In both the Old and New Testaments, we can read about people who were doing things that did not make God happy—but then they changed and turned to God. They repented and were happy! To be a disciple of Jesus, a person must be willing to repent, or change, anything in their life that does not please God. To know what pleases God, a person must read the Bible. Today, you will see how well you know the Bible by telling if a book is from the Old Testament or the New Testament.*
2. Using the list on the back of this Lesson Card, read each book title to the children and have them say if it is from the Old Testament or the New Testament. Tell them to use their Bibles—especially the table of contents—to help them decide.
3. When you are finished, distribute the copies of Reproducible Page E and pencils. Tell the children to work with a partner to try and see which Testament the books are in. Circulate among the children to offer help.
4. Have the children check their answers with each other when they finish. When all the children are finished, read the correct answers from your Answer Key.

Conclusion

Encourage the children to try this activity at home with a brother or sister or during a family devotional. Close with a prayer thanking God for the Bible.

Answer Key

1. Luke (new)
2. Numbers (old)
3. Deuteronomy (old)
4. 2 Chronicles (old)
5. 2 Timothy (new)
6. Genesis (old)
7. Matthew (new)
8. Exodus (old)
9. 1 Kings (old)
10. 1 Corinthians (new)
11. Mark (new)
12. Leviticus (old)
13. John (new)
14. Hebrews (new)
15. Ephesians (new)

Teacher Tips

- Be prepared to work with new or visiting children as your partner.



Make That Change

Old or New?

- Genesis (old)
- Matthew (new)
- Exodus (old)
- Mark (new)
- Leviticus (old)
- Luke (new)
- Numbers (old)
- Deuteronomy (old)
- John (new)
- 1 Kings (old)
- 1 Corinthians (new)
- 2 Chronicles (old)
- 2 Timothy (new)



Hidden Message

Name _____

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REPENT

Use the secret code below to find out the meaning of the word repent:

●=G ♥=A ▲=E ♦=H ♠=N ♣=C

Write the letters in the empty boxes.

♣	♦	♥	♠	●	▲

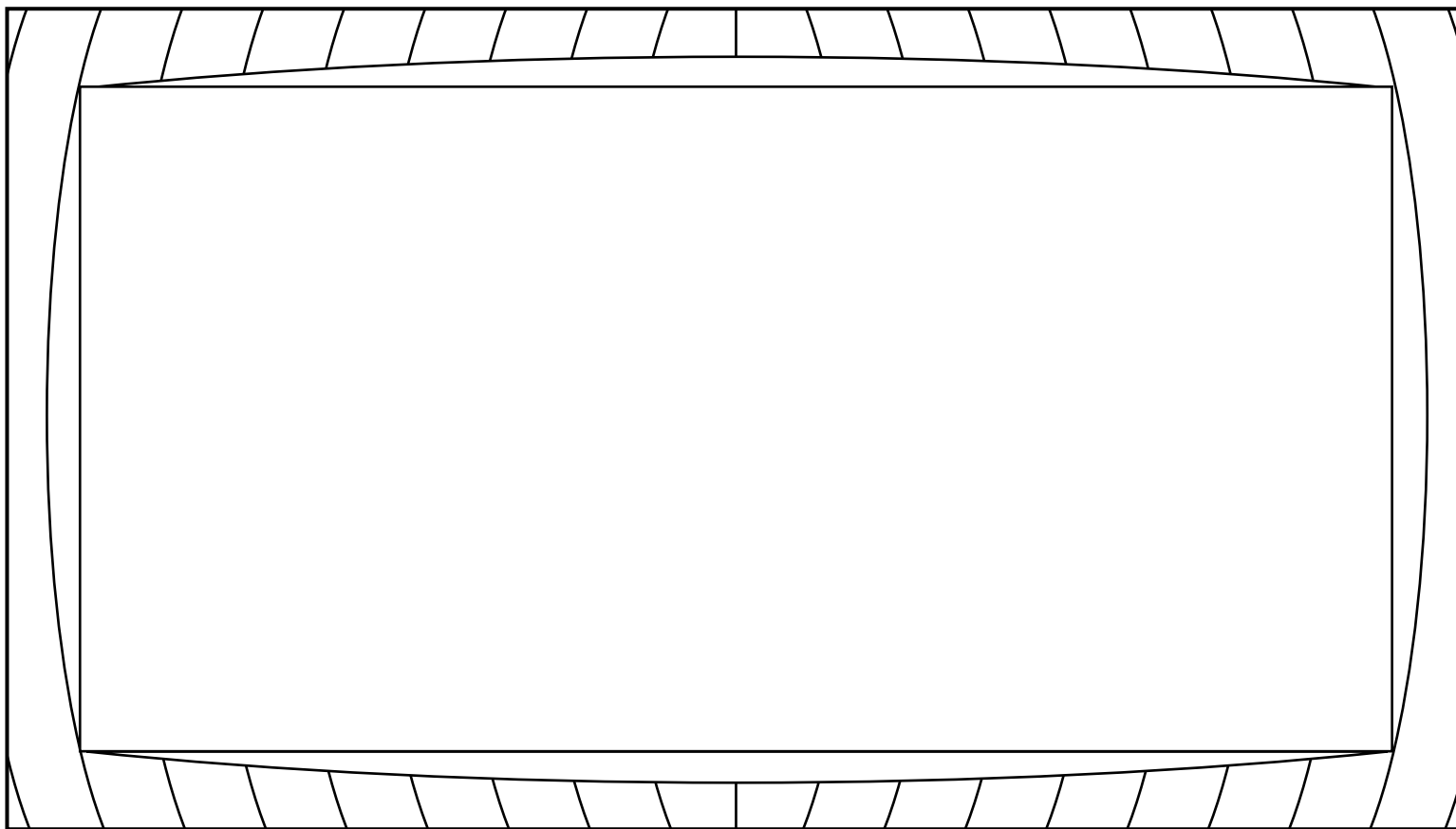
What does the word "repent" mean? _____

PAGE
A



Core/Craft
1 copy for each child

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Core/Scripture Memory
2 copies for the teacher (on 2 different colors)

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Unless

and become like

you change

little children,

you will never

of heaven.

enter the kingdom

Matthew 18:3



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Supplement/Preclass

1 copy for each child

R.E.P.E.N.T.

Name _____

Fill in the blanks with the letters from the word "repent" to see what it means.

- Right action
___xcited to change
___ray to God
___very effort
___ew heart
___ell someone

Color and decorate the word below:

REPENT

Supplement/Bible Skills

1 copy for each child

Old or New?

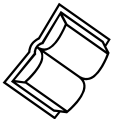
Name _____



Below is a list of some books from the Bible. Figure out if each book is from the Old Testament or the New Testament, and write next to each book, "Old" or "New."



1. Luke _____
2. Numbers _____
3. Deuteronomy _____
4. 2 Chronicles _____
5. 2 Timothy _____
6. Genesis _____
7. Matthew _____
8. Exodus _____
9. 1 Kings _____
10. 1 Corinthians _____
11. Mark _____
12. Leviticus _____
13. John _____
14. Hebrews _____
15. Ephesians _____



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