

LifeGroup Study

The Life You Were Made For : Naming the Dragon

Sermon Summary

When things start breaking down, our instinct is to hide behind vague language, white lies, and silence. But unaddressed problems don't stay small –left in the dark, they grow into monsters. You need to name the dragon and once you've named it, there's a turn to make and that turn is what the Bible calls repentance. The New Testament word is metanoia: a change of mind so deep it changes your direction. Repentance isn't God's threat; it's His invitation – the doorway back to the life you were made for.

Key Verse

Mark 1:15
"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

SERMON NOTES

<https://bible.com/events/49678569>

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What idea from this week's sermon caught your attention?
2. The New Testament word metanoia is a change of mind so deep it changes your direction. It's what the Bible means by repentance. Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-10: Paul contrasts "godly sorrow," which brings repentance and leaves no regret, with "worldly sorrow," which brings death. What's the difference between feeling sorry (remorse) and actually repenting (turning)?
3. Read Mark 1:14-15. Notice Jesus presents repentance as an invitation to good news, not a threat. And you can't accept the invitation without the turn. If repentance is the doorway into Jesus' kingdom, what does that say about what following Jesus is – and why would He put turning at the very front door?
5. Read Luke 15:1-7. Jesus says there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. What does this story, and heaven's reaction, tell you about how God responds when someone turns? How is that different from what you expected?
6. Read Ephesians 4:15. What does it mean to speak the truth in love? What does the opposite look like? (harsh truth, loving silence)
7. Hidden, unrepented sin never stays private; it poisons everyone connected to you. What's the cost of hidden sin on a community, a family, a team, a church? Why do we protect the hidden thing instead of exposing and turning from it?
8. Read Proverbs 28:13. This series is about the life you were made for. How is repentance *not* the price you pay before that life starts, but the doorway into it? What part of the good life feels out of reach while something stays unconfessed?
9. Read Acts 3:19. Peter promises that those who repent and turn to God have their sins wiped out, and "times of refreshing" come from the Lord. Why do you think God attached refreshing to turning, and what refresh have you personally tasted on the far side of an honest turn?
10. Is there a "dragon"/sin you'd like to name out loud to the group? What is it, what has it been costing you, and what would the first honest sentence of turning sound like?

CLOSING PRAYER

Take 2-3 minutes for silent confession.

Then have different group members read:

Psalm 51:1-4, Psalm 51, 10-12, Acts 3:19, and 1 John 1:9.

End by having the leader say, "Thank you Jesus for the cross."