

Mystic



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos and music listed (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Provide paper, markers, and poster paper.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Explore

Have someone read Luke 3:7-18 out loud and show the *Bible Background Video*.

- Show the youtube clip from the movie "Dave"
- Show the youtube clip from the musical "Les Miserables" (Note: in this scene, Valjean, a prisoner released on parole finds life outside the prison to be harsh. A priest offers him grace in the form of shelter, a meal, and forgiveness that is above and beyond when Valjean steals the silver off the dinner table. When caught by the police, the priest claims that he gave the silver to Valjean . . . and that Valjean forgot to take the candlesticks as well. After this scene, Valjean uses the silver to begin a new life.)

✓ Discussion

After showing the videos, ask the following questions to encourage discussion:

- What do you notice about the requirements of repentance? What's hard about it?
- Do you think that repentance is as easier response to grace or condemnation? Why?
- What do you notice about the effects of repentance?
- Activity
- Invite people to write as many endings to the sentence prompt "Repentance . . ." as come to mind.
- Compile everyone's sentences on a poster paper as people share their responses

✓ Reflection

Invite people to look at the sentences on the poster and pay attention to which words or phrases most catch their attention.

Ask: What is it about the word/phrase that catches your attention? What possible connection might there be between the word/phrase you notice, and your life? Is there a situation or thought pattern or habit in your life that God is inviting you to repent from? What would it look like for you to repent?

Is there something that you would like to repent of right now with God? Take some moments to share your desire with God. Leave some space in your prayer for God to respond as God chooses to.

Invite people to share their reflections with the group.

Close with prayer for each other.

By Joy Yee

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