

# METANOIA

Text: John 15:1-11

## Plain Truth

Repentance takes us from \_\_\_\_\_ to freedom, from \_\_\_\_\_ to light and from \_\_\_\_\_ to life.

- 1) Repentance takes us from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Repentance takes us from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) One of the darkest trails you will ever walk in life is the one that takes you down the path of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) Another dark trail people walk which leads to destruction is the trail called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Repentance takes us from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

May 26 & 27, 2018

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May 26 & 27, 2018

# Life Group Lesson

Week of May 27

Freedom is a big deal. And when you think about it – life is a big deal, joy is a big deal, and hope is a big deal. But often we are robbed of our freedom, life, joy, and hope because of something that stands in the way. Although we may have struggles physically, or at work, or with the family, those challenges are not what ultimately stand in the way of reaching our full redemptive potential. Although we have an enemy working against us, that “prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour” and set us back a few paces (1 Peter 5:8), agents of darkness cannot ultimately keep us from living into God’s purpose. The thing that stands in the way of ultimate freedom is sin. The only way to live a fruitful life is to remain in Christ.

Read John 15:1-17

1. Metanoia refers to a ‘transformative change of heart’ and it comes from the Greek word, *metanoiein* which means to change one’s mind. As Christ-followers, how has the Lord already ‘pruned and purified’ us according to John 15:3?

Now, refer to Romans 12:2 and discuss briefly how God transforms an individual into a new person. Reflecting on your own life’s journey thus far, how are you beginning to understand God’s will for you personally?

God’s will *is* good and pleasing and perfect. Although challenges can deter us, the Good News is that Christ has defeated sin. Jesus says, “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). One way to ‘remain’ in Christ (the Vine) is to follow Him. Sounds simple. And it can be if we keep our eyes on the bigger picture, abundant life with Christ and *in* Christ. This world can never offer anything as deeply meaningful as a personal relationship with the Lord. Jesus said, “Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me” (John 12:26).

2. Repentance means ‘to turn’ – to go in the direction of life. How is it impossible to follow Jesus and go our own way at the same time?

How can we encourage one another to follow Jesus (go in the direction of life)?

Freedom is a big deal and somebody – somewhere along the way – pays for it. We remember those who served our country and thank God for them. Let’s praise God for His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ who ultimately paid for freedom when He took our place upon the cross.

3. Close with a prayer of thanksgiving and repentance. Praise God for allowing you to have dual citizenship – this nation and heaven! (see Philippians 3:20-21)

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