

Review:

Lesson 1: God's Callings
Lesson 2: Pray First
Lesson 3: First Steps
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Lesson 5: Facing Opposition
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Lesson 8: God's Strength/Joy

Lesson 9: Repentance

Repentance, Pt. 2

Nehemiah 10:28-30

Some parts of repentance (the contrite heart and the recognition of all the ways we have fallen short) can be done corporately. But the pledge to do better going forward and the willingness to be held accountable is necessarily an exercise of each _____.

Discussion 1. We can confess the sins of our country's or our church's or our family's past but we cannot pledge everyone's loyalty to God going forward. That must be an individual pledge. Why is it important to not confuse these realities of repentance? What is the harm in not understanding the difference?

Creeds can be helpful in terms of helping Christ followers better understand orthodox Christian theology; but, ultimately, God's calling on us is more specific than to subscribe to a creed. He calls us to _____, the Word become flesh.

Discussion 2. How would you explain to a 6-year-old the difference between holding to a particular statement of beliefs and actually following Christ? Why is that distinction important?

_____, i.e., living in ways that separate us from the brokenness of this world and thereby pointing the world towards Jesus has always been and will always be a foundational purpose of God's people in this world.

Discussion 3. If holiness is primarily about living a life that effectively points people towards Christ, then why do so many people think "holy" is a negative word? What is about "being holy" that people find offensive?

Any pledge on our part to follow Christ more closely should include an element of stewardship of the _____, _____ and _____ God has given us.

Discussion 4. Why do you suppose our stewardship is such an important part of following Christ? God clearly doesn't need anything from us. So, why do you think His Word talks so much about money?