

REPENTANCE

Repentance is the remorse (regret sorrow) of past acts. Usually Christians turn away from sin and try living a life pleasing to God. Sin is the broken relationship with God. Many Christians sin in a variety of ways, but the ultimate acts of repenting to seek God's love is the way Christians deal with sin. Repentance usually happens when a believer first seeks Christ as their savior. Today's verbiage in explaining a transformed life is being 'born again,' 'believer,' or 'Christian.'

Mentor

Take this time in explaining your defining moment (your conversion). You might want to explain how you felt in repenting. The details in explaining the process you experienced will give your mentee insight in their process in converting and repenting.

Biblical foundation

- Psalms 38:18, 'I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.' (TNIV)
- Proverbs 28:13, 'Those who conceal their sins do not prosper, but those who confess and renounce them find mercy.' (TNIV)
- Matthew 3:11, "'I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' (TNIV)

Cultural

The acts of killing, sexual abuse, adultery were somewhat common in native culture. The idea of seeking forgiveness from their creator was not understood as a way in which one could be forgiven. Not until the missionaries arrived to many villages did the native people understand repentance. Repentance was not a norm prior to the missionary's arrival. Since then, Alaska

natives have understood the process and acknowledged the Christian aspect. Today, like many western Christians, Alaska natives repent as the process of becoming a Christian.

Potential activity

Ask your mentee if they understand repentance. Have him write down several thoughts on repentance. Several questions you might ask are;

- Did you ask for forgiveness from Christ of your past actions?
 - How did that make you feel?
 - Do you feel any different?
- How have you changed your ways in living life?
 - What do you do differently?
 - Do you have any new friends?
- Have they witnessed anyone repenting?
 - How did that make them feel?
 - Did he want to change his life because of witnessing?