



The Kingdom of God is at Hand

“The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:15

Opening Thought

Jesus came out of the wilderness and went into Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God. He began his ministry with a command, “Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Upon receiving the gospel, a believer’s desire is to turn away from sin. Jesus Christ has the power to change the way we think and behave when we repent.

QUESTION: What does “repent” mean?

Turning from sin, and turning to God. Whether believer or unbeliever, we are all called to repentance. Our relationship with Christ will require and motivate us to continue turning away from sin.

QUESTION: What does “gospel” mean?

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The gospel is the good news of God’s grace to sinners.

Jesus Christ died for our sins, was entombed, and rose again. When we believe in Him, we obtain everlasting life through God’s grace.

Application

You can turn away from sin and start a new life with Christ. If you feel that you do not have the ability to change, remember, Christ has the power to transform you.

QUESTION: How can we begin to repent and believe?

- Identify the sin in our lives
- Turn away from the sin
- Turn to God
- Read and believe the gospel

Prayer

Close your gathering in prayer. Accept prayer requests from the group and include them in your prayer. Also, challenge your group to pray for each other. The following is a sample prayer you may use for guidance.

Father God thank you for this day and for your message. We ask forgiveness for our sins and that you take them away from us. We ask that you replace our sins with the things you desire for us. We need your help in living a better life. Please lead us through repentance and believing in the gospel. Allow us to experience the power of your scriptures. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Additional and Optional Scriptures:

“Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.” Ezekiel 18:30 (NKJV)

“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” Luke 5:32 (NKJV)

“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” Luke 13:3 (NKJV)

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-5 (NKJV)

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV)