

03 TURNING FROM SIN

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 7:1-15

CENTRAL truth

Though God's temple was filled with His people, their hearts and lives were filled with sin. God sent Jeremiah to the temple to confront His people and call them to repentance. Sin is destructive: if it isn't dealt with, sin will ruin everything in our lives. God doesn't want that for us, so he provided a solution: repentance and forgiveness. **God forgives us when we repent.**

key question

How should we respond when God calls us out for our sin? What are the dangers of not responding?

We might think God corrects us because He's mad, offended, or sick of us in some way, but that's not true. God corrects us because He loves us; our ultimate good is always at the forefront of His mind. When His Spirit convicts us of sin, the only logical response to that love is repenting and seeking His forgiveness. If we ignore His conviction, our relationship with Him will become strained and sin will have a destructive effect in our lives.

keep in mind

- Today's session revolves around Judah's religious activities at the temple. Their actions looked right, but their attitudes were wrong. Also, their actions in the temple didn't match their actions everywhere else they went. Help students to remember that our attitudes are what are most important to God. An attitude of love for God is what will turn into actions of love for God at home, church, school, or anywhere else.
- *Repentance* can be an intimidating word for some students. Help to keep it simple: repentance is intentionally turning from one thing to another. When we become aware of sinful attitudes or actions, we turn away from those and toward God in prayer, confessing our sins and receiving His loving forgiveness. Repentance is not a one-time act, but a constant, daily practice of loving and staying close to the Lord.

application

Why is God willing to take drastic steps to get our attention? What are some ways He might be trying to get your attention today?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: We tend to be impressed by what we see on the outside: the ways people talk, dress, and act. Students have the opportunity to learn that God's concern is our heart (thoughts and attitudes). Out of the heart flows everything we do and say (see Luke 6:45). When our heart is right, God will be honored in what we do and say.

FOR THE LEADER: Help students understand that every follower of Jesus will struggle with untrue or unhelpful thought patterns as well as bad attitudes. That's normal. He's compassionate about our struggles and wants to continually forgive, cleanse, and strengthen us when we repent and confess our sins.

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