

FAITH AND REPENTANCE ARE INSEPARABLE ACTS OF GRACE

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: LIVING ON MISSION / SERIES: ACTS

BIG TRUTH: FAITH AND REPENTANCE ARE INSEPARABLE ACTS OF GRACE

Matthew 3:6; Mark 1:5; Romans 14:11; James 5:16

BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 19:18

“Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.”

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is not the means to authority; He is the authority.
- The fullness of God dwells in Jesus.
- Jesus followers turn from false authorities.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ACTS 19:11-20; COLOSSIANS 2:9-10

KNEEL: LIVING ON MISSION

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28) and to use our influence to lead others to do the same. We know that as we pursue a life of worship, we will pursue a life of both wisdom and mission. Throughout this year we will study and pursue the wisdom of God through the book of Proverbs and the mission of God through the book of Acts, and we will learn how both of these things must inform and shape our influence as Jesus followers!

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- The gospel has the power to turn the world upside down.
- They are empowered and chosen to be a gospel witness in the world.
- Our salvation has come by grace alone.



Every student should feel...

- Comfort that the Lord is with them wherever they go.
- Hope in the God of salvation.
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone.



Every student should strive to...

- Read, study, and meditate on the entire book of Acts.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Pray consistently for boldness to make Jesus known.



Every student should want...

- To pursue faithfulness in living on mission.
- To share the gospel with people in their lives who do not know Jesus.
- To sacrifice their personal freedoms for the sake of the gospel

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 19:18

“Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.”

Biblical faith results in life change.

“Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.”

- Every person has faith in something. Having Biblical faith means trusting in the truth of God’s salvation plan. His salvation plan is Jesus. Jesus came and lived the life that we could not live and died the death we all deserved to die. Believing in the salvation He offers results in our being forgiven for the sin debt we owe and a life transformation.
- We experience a life transformation because our hearts are made new. The sinful hearts we once had are made new by the Spirit living inside of us. This results in a life change for us. We no longer live for the things of this world but instead live for the glory of Jesus.

Biblical faith is repentance of sins.

“Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing....”

- True faith is a repentance of sins. Repentance involves a recognition that we are sinful. We must first have a recognition that we have sinned against God. This involves knowing that we have rejected His plan and His way for our own. It doesn’t mean that we fully understand extensively what sin is, but we will understand that we are separated from God because of our sin.
- Repentance involves choosing to turn away from our sinfulness towards God. It means we say in our hearts, we reject the path of sinfulness we’re on and choose to make Jesus the Lord of our lives. When we do this, we are saying that we want to walk in obedience to God’s way.

Repentance leads to a casting off of fleshly things.

“Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.”

- When we repent, we turn away from our sinful natures and we cast off our flesh. This casting off is a daily act of choosing to die to ourselves. We begin this process when we have saving faith and repent. At this point, we move from following our sinful hearts to following God. By doing this, we die to the desires that feed our flesh.
- Casting off of fleshly things requires living for God and knowing His Word. When we repent and believe in the forgiveness that Jesus offers, we are no longer separated from God. This means we can grow in Him and in our knowledge of Him. By doing this, we can grow in our understanding of Him and grow in our obedience to Him.

FAITH AND REPENTANCE ARE INSEPARABLE ACTS OF GRACE

BIG IDEA #1: JESUS IS NOT THE MEANS TO AUTHORITY; HE IS THE AUTHORITY.¹

[THIS]

God shows His grace to mankind by offering forgiveness for sins. This forgiveness requires repentance and faith. Faith and repentance are connected and cannot occur separately. In Acts 19:11-20, God did miraculous things through Paul. Because of the miraculous things that were occurring, seven sons of a Jewish high priest attempted to replicate Paul's actions of healing and setting people free of evil spirits. They did this by invoking the name of Jesus but without true faith and repentance. Paul did these acts in the name of Jesus offering people the truth of who Jesus is and calling people to repent and believe in Jesus as the Savior. The seven sons of the Jewish high priest were imitating Paul's actions but were not offering the truth. They were attempting to have a fake authority by using Jesus' name. What they missed was that Jesus isn't just a way to have authority. He is the authority. He alone has the authority to do the things that were being done through Paul. The seven sons of the high priest failed in their attempts.

[THEREFORE]

How do people today attempt to use Jesus' authority without submitting to His authority?

Today people want to abide by some type of religion and experience benefits of religion without submitting their lives to Jesus's authority to be King of their lives. Unless a person repents and believes, he or she is not a true follower of Jesus. Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:21, and John 3:35 remind us that Jesus is the authority and has all authority.

[THIS]

Because Jesus is the authority, those who repent and believe in Him are set free from their sin debt. Believing in Jesus for salvation is submitting to His authority. When we share this truth with others, we are sharing the real truth of who Jesus is. Paul did this as he traveled from place to place on his missionary journeys. He told people who Jesus is, revealing to them that they must repent and believe in Jesus. We cannot separate faith and repentance from one another. We cannot offer a watered-down belief in Jesus and think that people will be saved. If we tell people that they only have to believe without telling them that they must also repent, then we are lying to them and leading them to a false belief. When Jesus commanded His people to share the Gospel, He commanded them to tell people to repent and believe. This is the authority He was giving to His followers. We use this authority when we share the Gospel with others.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it easier to use Jesus as a means for authority rather than accepting Him as the authority?

We often like to think that we know better or that we have wisdom that is above anything else. We falsely believe we understand ourselves and even life on earth. We choose to live according to our rules rather than under the authority of Jesus. John 19:11 reminds us that all authority is Jesus' and if we are to live a redeemed life, we must live under this authority.

What does repentance look like? How is repentance different than belief?

Repentance is a turning away from our sin and a turning to God. Acts 3:19 and Matthew 4:17 help us understand that repentance is more than a belief. It is an action that involves changing directions in our lives.

1. Acts 19:11: God is the authority and all that we do is done through the authority He allows us to have.

FAITH AND REPENTANCE ARE INSEPARABLE ACTS OF GRACE

BIG IDEA #2: THE FULLNESS OF GOD DWELLS IN JESUS.²

[THIS]

When God sent Jesus to the earth, Jesus came as Immanuel, or God with us. Jesus is the second person of the Triune God. This means that He is God and has the divine nature of God. When Jesus was born of Mary, His earthly mother, He took on a human nature as part of God's salvation plan. In Acts 19:11, God in His triune fullness was doing mighty works through Paul, a follower of God. Paul, as he traveled on his missionary journeys taught people about Jesus and told them of the work that Jesus did on the cross. The authority that Jesus gave to His disciples was the authority of God because the fullness of God dwells in Jesus. This same authority is the authority by which Paul was sharing the Gospel and calling others to repent and believe. He was not asking people to turn from their sin because he said they should, but instead, he was asking them to repent because Jesus commands them to do so.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it necessary to share that Jesus is fully God and fully man when we share the Gospel?

Because Jesus is both man and God, mankind can be saved from its sin. Without this truth, mankind is lost forever. Philippians 2:7 and Romans 8:3 teach us that the salvation offered to the world is through Jesus who is both God and man. These two natures enable us to have the forgiveness of our sins because Jesus became what we could not be.

[THIS]

The fullness of God dwelling in Jesus means that those who experience Jesus are experiencing God in the flesh. When we experience salvation, we are experiencing a forgiveness of our sins by the one true God. Paul preached this truth and used the power that was given to him by God. This power to heal people and release demons is only possible because it comes from the God of the universe. Even more than that, Jesus can save people from their sins because He is God. Only God has the power and authority to save people from their sins. Even the demons recognize Jesus as the God of the universe. In Acts 19:15-16, when the seven sons of the high priest were trying to invoke the power of Jesus by using His name only, the demon acknowledged that he knew who Jesus was. It is through Jesus that redemption is offered. When a person repents and believes in Jesus as the Christ, he or she is redeemed and given new life. This is the Gospel Paul preached in any and every circumstance.

[THEREFORE]

What are some false ideas the world often has about Jesus? Where do these ideas originate?

Often the world creates its own idea of who Jesus is. They make Him into a good man who did kind things. They turn Him into a prophet or a good teacher. Jesus is more than that because the fullness of God dwells in Him. Because He is fully God, He is God and not just a good teacher. Matthew 16:13-20 helps us understand that people have always questioned who Jesus is and struggled to accept His true identity.

What encouragement do you find in the knowledge that the fullness of God dwells in Jesus?

Colossians 2:9-10 tells us that the fullness of God dwells in Jesus, and He is the head and rule of all authority. We should take encouragement knowing that Jesus is Lord of all and we serve Him.

2. Colossians 2:9-10: Jesus is God in the flesh. The full deity of God dwells in Jesus and He has all authority.

FAITH AND REPENTANCE ARE INSEPARABLE ACTS OF GRACE

BIG IDEA #3: JESUS FOLLOWERS TURN FROM FALSE AUTHORITIES.³

[THIS]

Faith and repentance are inseparable, and they require a submission to the authority of Jesus. To submit to the authority of Jesus, we must turn away and reject all other authorities in our lives. We see a picture of this in Acts 19:18-19 when Paul preaches Christ and others turn away from the false practices they had previously trusted in to follow Jesus. The people had looked for help in earthly things and in false supernatural powers. These powers had left them needing salvation still. When they encountered the truth about Jesus, they repented. This repentance and belief in Jesus led them to get rid of the false practices that had been their normal habit. They burned their books and changed their ways to follow Jesus. This is a picture of what it looks like to truly repent and believe in Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

What false authorities does the world cling to instead of turning to Jesus?

In Mark 7:7, Jesus warns His followers not to trust in the traditions of man. Often, we trust in our own authority over trusting in the authority of Jesus. We cling to our false authority and think that we can save ourselves when we cannot. 1 Corinthians 10:20 reminds us that we must turn from this idolatry and turn to Jesus.

[THIS]

Repentance involves life change. When a person repents, he or she will live a different life. Even for those who become followers of Jesus as young children, their repentance involves life change. They will grow up living different lives than if they had not repented. For those who become believers later in life, the way they live their life will change. They will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Jesus and His kingdom. When we trust in Jesus for our salvation, it involves turning away from any other authority that we have trusted in or allowed to rule in our lives. It means submitting our lives to the authority of Jesus and obeying His commandments. We will remove all idols and idolatry from our lives and turn to Him. We will saturate our lives with His Word and seek to become more like Him every day.

[THEREFORE]

What false authorities in the world are you tempted to follow and how can you discipline yourself to resist this temptation?

James 4:7 tells us that when we submit to God, we will resist temptation. When we pray and ask God to show us the false authorities we are tempted to trust in, He will do so. Once we see them, we can submit our hearts to God daily and we will resist the temptation to trust in them.

When we share the Gospel, why should we share that Jesus has full authority?

Because Jesus has all authority, He has the power to save. Because He has all authority, He is worthy of our repentance. He is the one true God who deserves our submission to Him. We should turn from our false idols and fake authorities to follow Jesus. 1 Peter 3:22 and Philippians 2:9 remind us that Jesus holds all authority and has been exalted by the Father to a place above all others. Because of this, when we share the Gospel, we should share that He is worthy of our submission and repentance.

3. Acts 19:18-19: When Paul preached Christ and revealed His authority, people turned away from the false authorities and powers they were following to follow Jesus.