

**Lent—Repent**  
**Study Questions**  
**Psalm 51:17; Matthew 3:2 & 8; Acts 2:38**

**Warm-up**

**1) When have you been on “autopilot”, where you either headed to the wrong place, or missed doing something you intended? When did you realize what happened, and what did you do about it?**

**A little deeper**

**2) [Psalm 51:17] David approached God with a broken spirit and a contrite heart. What does it mean to have a broken spirit? Why does a broken spirit go hand-in-hand with a broken and contrite heart?**

**3) [Matthew 3:2] John the Baptist exhorted people to “repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Why should the nearness of the kingdom of heaven lead to repentance?**

**4) [Matthew 3:8] John told some who came to him to “produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” What sorts of “fruit” would you expect to come of repentance?**

**5) [Acts 2:38] In his first public sermon, Peter told his hearers to repent and be baptized, that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. What is the ultimate result of repentance? Why does God emphasize its importance to us so much?**

**Bringing it home**

**6) Thinking back to times you’ve made choices you later regretted, what led you to the recognition that you made a poor choice? (Was it “getting caught”, or seeing someone in pain, ...?)**

**How have you tended to respond to these regrets?**

**7) [2 Corinthians 7:10] Repentance leads to salvation with no regret, while worldly sorrow still leaves us in our sin with feelings of guilt and regret. Have you had an experience that illustrates this difference? What led you to repentance and turning toward God rather than a simple, “sorry”?**

**8) What image of God do you see when you face sin or regret? Is it an image of fury? Indifference? Loving disappointment...?**

**What do you think might help someone who doesn’t recognize God’s conviction of us as a loving response to sin?**