

The New Rebellion of Repentance

4

Rebel Freshman Teacher Guide

Helps for Leading Session 4

- After event? Invite to church?
- Don't forget to bring Bibles again in case people forget to bring them.
- Sign ups: For newcomers!
- This session is intended to get them to consider joining the rebellion of being a disciple of Jesus. It makes the next step clear for them to see what life should look like as a rebel. As you will see, the church is an integral aspect of that lifestyle.
- Talk about what's next for your group. Will you transition into a discipleship group?

Handout 4

Introduction

Summary of Sessions 1-3: Jesus came for rebels. He came to die for rebels like us all so that we would repent and turn to God. Because of Jesus' resurrection from the grave, the time for repentance is now, but time is running out because God has fixed a day when Jesus will judge the world in righteousness. The lost can join the party of the Father's embrace now by repenting and trusting in Jesus alone to forgive their sins.

Read

"Pilate summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him." -Luke 23:13-14 (NASU)

The passage in Luke 23 brings us to another irony in the charges against Jesus at the cross. The religious leaders charged that Jesus was a revolutionary, an insurrectionist. They claimed that his life was a danger to the society. This is another irony that Luke develops from the cross in his second volume, the book of Acts. The lie they created to put a stop to his influence actually unleashed his influence into all the world after the resurrection. Things got out of control. A real rebellion broke out that couldn't be contained. Acts narrates the story of the ruckus that erupted in Jerusalem because of the news that Jesus had been resurrected.

Miracles began to happen. People were trying to figure out what was happening. Peter stands and explains it all to them. Luke records what happened in Acts 2. Read Acts 2:37-41.

Discuss

Q. What is the appropriate response to the resurrection of Jesus from the grave? What should you do in light of the resurrection?

"Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." -Acts 2:38a

"Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."- Acts 3:19-20

Repent: Turn from sin and trust in Jesus alone to save. As in Luke, the Father is welcoming sinners who repent of their sins and come to him through Jesus. This was the message of the early followers of Jesus as they continued proclaiming the message of Jesus.

Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ: openly identifying with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

This commitment could not be confined to a personal decision or a personal faith. This was a public decision that demanded a public response. Baptism is following Jesus example as he was baptized (Luke 3:21-22) and owning up to your new identity in him. It's the first outward step of non-conformity. It's aligning your life with Jesus' death as you go down into the water and resurrection as you come up out of the water.

"And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38b

They receive **forgiveness of sins** and the gift of the **Holy Spirit**.

[Peter told them to] "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." -Acts 2:40

Distance yourself from the habits of the crooked generation in which you live. The resurrection ushers in a new day that requires a new response. The norm is no longer acceptable. It is time to **rebel** against the status quo. It is time to be distinct for Jesus by following his way of life.

Read

- Acts 2:41-47

Discuss

This new community of rebels that is formed is called the church.

- They receive the word of the gospel by **believing** in Jesus (v. 41).
- They **identify** with Jesus by being baptized and joining the community (v. 41).
- They continue to **learn** and **seek** God together (v. 42).
- They **sacrifice** for one another and shared life together (v. 45).
- They **celebrate** what Jesus did by regularly eating together (v. 46-47). The party that began in Jesus' life continues after his death in this new community. In their life together, they continue to embody how God was welcoming sinners through Jesus Christ.
- They made it a habit to **assemble** together for worship (v. 47).
- They **welcome** new people whom God is delivering from the crooked generation around them (v. 47).

Acts tells the story of how nothing could hinder the progress of this new community. Jesus' followers upset the world order by living counter-culturally, by refusing to conform to the pattern of life around them.

This story continues in our day, on your campus.

There are two paths before you: which way will you go?

Option 1: The Path of **Conformity**:

These rebels:

- Run from God and his restraints like the younger son.
- Trust in themselves and their works to make them right with Him like the older son.
- Their lives are aligned with the crooked generation. They either give themselves to godlessness or self-righteous religion.
- This life will not end well. It will be ultimately unsatisfying because they will miss the party of the Father's love in Jesus Christ. They miss the party now in the church and miss the party at the judgment in the end. This is a dead-end that will end in God's judgment.

Option 2: The Path of **Rebellion**: Following Jesus individually and as his new community

These rebels:

- Run to God through Jesus for forgiveness of their sins.
- Stop trusting in themselves and in their works to save, but trust in Jesus alone to forgive them of their sins.
- Enjoy the love of the Father in Jesus and experience life both now and forever. They have no fear of the judgment to come because their sins are forgiven now and forever.
- They live distinct lives in the midst of a crooked generation.
- They repent of their sins continually. The church is not for the self-righteous, but for those who confess their lack of righteousness. The church is a hospital for the sick who are being restored by Jesus (Luke 5:27-32).
- They publically identify with Jesus Christ and his church in baptism.
- They embody the counter-cultural lifestyle of Jesus. They rebel as they live in righteousness and faithfulness to God.
- The reality of the resurrection compels them to tell everyone the good news.
- They continually meet as the church to devote themselves to learning from the Bible and prayer.

Consider

- **What will it be? Will you be a rebel freshman?**
 - **Will you miss the real party?**
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Potential Illustrations and Probing Questions

1. This session highlights the irony of the charge made against Jesus of being an insurrectionist and starting a riot. The irony is not fully developed in Luke but becomes clear in Acts. The reality of Jesus' resurrection creates a stir wherever his followers go in the book of Acts. Even in Thessalonica, some people say that these men had "upset the whole world" (Acts 17).
2. A potential hurdle for people to overcome in considering the church is their past experience with the church. One way to talk about this could be through the lens of the elder brother. We can easily pinpoint the sins of others (i.e. their church), but sometimes it is more difficult to see our own. You want to help them see the potential that we all suffer from an elder brother heart. Hypocrisy and criticism are rampant in the church, but some know they are hypocrites and are addressing it through repentance. Others stand at a distance and point out others hypocrisy while failing to see their own. Which one is more like the older brother?

Potential Questions and Answers:

1. This session is intended to connect the rebellion with repentance. A lifestyle of continual repentance is the lifestyle of a rebel. Those who think they need no repentance or never repent of their sins are just conforming to the normal pattern of life in this world. A rebel who follows Jesus continually admits his sin and turns back to God from his sin. His life is rearranged by Jesus Christ.

- In a limited sense, Jesus was a rebel. He rebelled against the norm around Him which was characterized by disobedience and self-righteous religion. Jesus embodied the lifestyle of a rebel in his faithfulness to God, except he never repented of any sin because he was sinless. His uniqueness threatened the religious elite and challenged the morally corrupt in his day. He stood out from the crowds.
- Our rebellion is a lifestyle of repentance that continually conforms to Jesus, not to the world. Romans 12:1-2 illustrate it well:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." - Romans 12:1-2

2. What is baptism? Baptism is the initiatory rite of the Christian life. It is the initial step of being a rebel that follows Jesus. It is a declaration of your allegiance to Jesus by identifying with his burial (going under the waters) and his resurrection (being raised from the waters). Romans 6 is a good place to go if they have questions.
- If they want to follow through with baptism at Providence, we usually have baptism services on the third Sunday nights of each month.