

life group study guide
July 6, 2014



Circle Under God
Repentance and Change
2 Chronicles 6 & 7

"If we want to see repentance and change come to our schools, our nation, and our families, then it must begin with us. We cannot wait for a governmental figure or a community leader to change what is our duty to change."

—Pastor Matt Nickoson

Q: How does that statement resonate with you?

Q: Where do we usually look for these types of changes to begin?

There's a famous story attributed to English writer and theologian, GK Chesterton, from the early 20th Century. The Times of London was planning a cover story titled **"What is Wrong with the World?"** and sent request to Chesterton and other well-known academics of the day asking how they would answer this deep question. In quintessential Chesterton fashion, he replied with the shortest, and yet most profound, answer in journalism history:

Dear Sirs,

I am.

Sincerely,

GK Chesterton

Q: What do you think Chesterton meant by this blunt response?

Q: What is your gut-reaction to this question? How would you answer it?

Q: How does this thought overlap with Pastor Matt's statement from above?

READ: 2 Chronicles 6:14-17

Q: In Solomon's prayer, he declares that God keeps His covenant with those who walk in His ways, but not only did ancient Israel prove again and again they could not live up to this standard, we continue to prove it today. What are some ways you see this everyday?

Q: If God's commands require perfection, how will we ever faithfully follow all of God's Laws and decrees?

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READ: 2 Chronicles 6:36-39

Q: Who does this passage say is without sin?

Q: What does it mean to "repent?"

Q: Do we ever "graduate" from our need for grace?

Q: What does repentance look like in the heart of a believer? Is it a one-time event? Is it an ongoing experience?

As we look at all that is wrong with the world, the daily deterioration of Judeo-Christian values, and the seeming celebration of cultural decline, it's easy to point at proponents of moral decay and say "they" are what's wrong with the world. But where does repentance begin?

Q: How does repentance play a role in your daily life?

READ: 2 Chronicles 7:14

Q: God says if we will "humble ourselves and pray" He will hear our prayers and heal our land. But prayer can be a mysterious thing. Be honest, do you ever have a hard time with prayer?

Q: What hinders you from praying? Do you ever feel guilty about it?

Q: Do you feel like prayer really makes a difference? How have you seen its impact in your life and on the world around you?

Q: Do you feel like you know "how" to pray?

Q: Have there been times of rich, consistent prayer in your daily life? What did/do those look like?

Q: Why do you think God designed prayer as such a powerful component of change? Doesn't it seem like a passive response?

Q: Why do you think humility engages God's action?

Q: How can we encourage one another in this journey of prayer?