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## L. UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

What would you like to see changed in your life direction? What can you do to make that change?

### L.11 I understand what repentance means.

Acts 20:20-21

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**A STORY** The sign said, REPENT YOU SINNER! “What does that mean?” One of the international students asked. He was curious to discern what it meant. It would mean that the words repentance and sinner would have to be explained. The setting is that the Apostle Paul previous to his repentance was persecuting Christians for their faith. During this time he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus to persecute followers of Jesus. During this time he experienced repentance (a turning around from persecution to following) and turning from his sinful ways. This verse in Scripture gives us a look into his words to the early followers of Jesus as they met together as a church. Take a look at this passage of the Bible.

#### **DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE**

Acts 20:21-22

*<sup>20</sup> You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. <sup>21</sup> I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.*

#### **DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY**

1. Who is the speaker of this first sentence?

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2. How did he provide teaching?

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3. Why does he mention Jews and Greeks?

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4. What does he encourage them to do?

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5. What are they turning away from?

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6. How does repentance connect with turning away?

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7. What are they turning away from and to what?

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8. What does it mean to have faith in the Lord Jesus?

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#### **APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

9. What kind of experience have you had with repentance?

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10. What do you think you need to do to turn to God?

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11. What do you need to repent from?

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12. How will you make this repentance a genuine experience?

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#### **DIGGING IN DEEPER**

1. What is the most important part of this lesson to you? Explain.

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2. How do you see applying aspects of this lesson to your life?

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3. When do you feel would be the best time to make that application?

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4. What do you hear the Lord speaking to you about this right now?

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