



ADULT

Lesson 11 / August 16, 2015

The Need for Repentance

By Crystal Green

for use as
STEP 1



Lesson 11
Focus:
Repent and live!

Lesson 11
Bible Basis:
Ezekiel 18:1-13

Lesson 11
Memory Verse:
“Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel?”
—Ezekiel 18:30-31

Students will discuss how repentance brings us to God and leads us to new life.

OPENING ACTIVITY: *Fine Forgiveness Day*

Ask your students what kind of reactions there would be to a “Fine Forgiveness Day” in which all fines at the local library were waived. They might answer that people would take advantage of this opportunity to bring back books and other items they had not returned for various reasons since the penalty was removed. They might mention the sense of joy, freedom, and relief people who had large fines would feel—they would be given an opportunity to make things right without any ramifications.

When we make things right, we often feel a sense of joy, freedom, and relief, as if a terrible weight has been lifted off of us. We see in this week’s story how that happened to Christian rapper KB when he met God and repented. His repentance brought him new life.

OPENING STORY: [Read aloud or make copies to give to your students]

‘GOD MET WITH ME THROUGH HIP-HOP,’ SAYS CHRISTIAN RAPPER KB

Christian rapper KB (real name Kevin Elijah Burgess) originally thought that God and rap music did not go together, but he has changed his mind since then because now he believes that “God met with me through hip-hop.”

This is why the 26-year-old KB has nothing but good words for his recording company, Reach Records. “We believe that all creativity, all innovation—it’s God who supplies creativity, because He’s the Creator. Reach Records is for the people. It isn’t for the money, it isn’t for the fame,” he said in a recent interview.

KB was 8 years old when his parents divorced and his mother took him to live on the south side of St. Petersburg, Florida, what he calls “one of worst areas of the state.” He fell into a deep depression, started to do drugs, and contemplated suicide before a friend introduced him to Jesus through Christian rap music. KB accepted the Lord, enrolled in a Bible college, and formed a hip-hop group that caught the attention of another Christian rapper, Lecrae, who signed the group to Reach Records.

While mainstream rappers and hip-hop artists try to outdo each other and scramble for popularity, the same cannot be said for Christians in the business. KB said he has a strong and solid friendship with fellow artists Lecrae and Andy Mineo, also from Reach Records.

When he first started out in rap music, KB thought that financial success was the main goal of his career. But the more he pursued financial gains and fame, the emptier he felt. “It was in that moment, when I had that opportunity in front of me and it wasn’t doing it for me, [that I realized] I needed something else,” he said.

KB changed his approach. Now, what’s important for KB as an artist is that people’s lives are being changed for the better because of his music. “At the end of the day what matters are lives being changed. That’s the prime product. That’s what keeps me up at night,” he shared. He has a new album called “Tomorrow We Live,” which was released April 21. His new work has earned the rapper both critical and commercial success.

About his leaving his old life and finding God, KB says, “We find ourselves looking in dumpsters for food, but really the true bread is God. Nothing could make me feel safe, not even weapons. The very thing it’s supposed to be providing, which is safety, makes you feel more in danger. When I discovered God, I felt safe for the first time in my life.”

Now have your students form small groups to discuss these questions.

- **Why do we often look everywhere to find life except with God?**
- **How is repentance the key to finding new life in the Lord?**
- **How important was repentance for you when you came to God?**

(When you are finished with the questions, go on to Step 2 in your *Adult Teacher’s Guide*.)

News Sources:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/god.met.with.me.through.hip.hop.says.christian.rapper.kb/56236.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KB_%28rapper%29

<http://whoiskb.com/about/>

Lesson 11 / August 16, 2015

The Need for Repentance

for use as
STEP 4



Lesson 11
Focus:
Repent and live!

Lesson 11
Bible Basis:
Ezekiel 18:1-13, 30-32

Lesson 11
Memory Verse:
“Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel?”
—Ezekiel 18:30-31

REPENTANCE: THE DOOR TO THE KINGDOM

John the Baptist paved the way for the ministry of Jesus by calling the people to repent. He cried out to them, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matt. 3:2). You can’t enter the kingdom of heaven without repentance. When you repent, you feel more than regret and remorse for your wrong actions. You realize you are a sinner in need of a Savior.

- **If you have not repented of your sins and turned your life over to Christ, now is the time to do that: “Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). Your teacher can help you understand more about the decision you are making.**
- **If you are already a follower of Christ, what sins is the Holy Spirit convicting you about? Decide now to repent and turn to God for help in leaving those sins.**

End the class in prayer, thanking God for the opportunity He gives us to repent of our sins, accept Christ as Savior, and change our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

(We are not affiliated with and do not endorse any website or any other media listed on these pages. At the time of writing, we carefully review the referenced material and non-referenced web page content. However, due to the nature of the Internet, non-cited content on the website [including pop-ups, links, and ads] changes frequently and is beyond our control. Please review carefully before showing links in the classroom.)

THE BIBLE IN THE NEWS

A Roman-era mosaic with a quotation from Isaiah 65 has been found in Adana, Turkey:
<http://www.dailysabah.com/arts-culture/2015/07/15/mosaic-with-bible-inscription-found-in-adana>