

Topic: Proper Humanity – Repenting/Not Stubborn

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “Perhaps they will listen and turn, every one from his evil way” (Jeremiah 26:3a).

Focus: To repent is not to insist that you are right and to accept that something you have done is wrong. When we do something wrong, we should apologize and not be stubborn about it.

Practical Application: Suppose you want cereal for breakfast and tell your mother you can pour the cereal and milk yourself. Your mother wants to help you pour the milk because it is heavy and easy to spill, but you insist on doing it yourself. A large spill occurs. To repent is to say sorry for spilling the milk and for insisting on your way.

Intermediate:

Verse: “...they did not cease from any of their practices or from their stubborn way” (Judges 2:19b).

Focus: We should repent of practices that are wrong. This means to turn away from them and not do them knowingly and repeatedly.

Practical Application: When we repent of doing something wrong, we should turn away from it and not do it again. Suppose that in your home there is a rule that you are not allowed to play video games until all your homework is done. One day you play some video games but then finish your homework quickly. Even though you were able to finish your homework quickly, playing video games first is breaking the rule in your home. Here is another example: suppose you are not allowed to eat any food in your room, but your mother discovers that you ate a bag of chips in bed. To bring food into your room again — any food at all, even if you don't leave a mess — would be to practice something wrong and not to repent of it. To repent of this practice is to be sorry and to not do it again.

Advanced:

Verse: “Repent therefore from this wickedness of yours and beseech the Lord if perhaps the intent of your heart may be forgiven you” (Acts 8:22).

Focus: We should repent for improper considerations and intents of our heart.

Practical Application: Suppose you have a test on Friday morning for which you did not adequately prepare. You know you should not lie about feeling sick if you are not actually sick, but you lie in bed considering ways in which you could miss the test. You might ask yourself, “What if I said I had a stomach ache or a sore throat? Maybe I could just say I do not feel well. Would any of these excuses work?” Such considerations in our heart reveal that there is something improper in us. Even if we do not lie or do anything wrong, the considerations in our heart may be wrong and for these we need to repent.