



# Run with the Horses

## Week 3: Repentance

### CCV Groups Discussion Guide

#### OPENING QUESTION:

Do you find it easy or difficult to accept an apology? How about to extend an apology?

#### GROUPS VIDEO GUIDE

#### READ:

[Jeremiah 7:1-11](#)

#### DISCUSS:

- Ashley taught, “People’s lives are only as good as their worship.” How have you seen that play out?
- How does [Jeremiah 7:1–4](#) challenge the way we think about worship and religious rituals today? In what ways can we ensure our worship is genuine and not just going through the motions?
- The people of Judah trusted in the physical presence of the temple rather than in God. What modern equivalents might we have today where we trust in religious symbols or institutions rather than in God Himself?
- Jeremiah’s message includes a call to “reform your ways and your actions.” What are some practical ways we could/should call each other to repentance?

#### GROUP CHALLENGE:

Read [James 1:22–27](#). Share one area where you could be more of a ‘doer of the word’ than merely a ‘listener.’

#### TAKE HOME QUESTIONS:

**Table Talk** (a question to ask your family): Is there an area of your faith that you have been just going through the motions?

**Water Cooler** (a question to ask at work): If you were a preacher of a church and called your congregation to change their ways. What action (or inaction) would you call them to repent from?

## **PRAYER:**

Give someone the list of scriptures below and ask them to write a corporate prayer of repentance that reflects the heart of these passages for your group.

## **SCRIPTURES:**

**Isaiah 1:10–17**, “Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ‘The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?’ says the Lord. ‘I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.’”

**Micah 6:6–8**, “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

**Amos 5:21–24**, “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”

**Matthew 21:12–13**, “Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ he said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

**James 1:22–27**, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But

whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”