

RECONCILIATION

1. To bring the idea of repentance to a more experiential level, and to set the stage for the next point in this lesson (that love motivates repentance), ask the students to remember an instance from their own life when they were deeply regretful. Then ask them to personally consider the following questions:
 - a. What motivated my sorrow in this situation?
 - b. Was the action which made me sorry directed to someone close to me (someone I care for)? Was the action so bad, or was it who it was directed to which caused my sorrow?
 - c. Look over the list on handout, "I Would Be Sorry If...", and determine the reasons why you would not be sorry for certain actions. Aren't the people about whom you would not feel sorry those with whom you do not have a close relationship?
 - d. What does this fact tell you about what motivates repentance? (answers: betrayal of love, or a damage of close relationship)
 - e. Could the fact that we are one in Christ motivate you to a larger area of concern and repentance?
2. The next fact for the students to realize is that they are loved by God, even though they may often feel they are not. Further, they should realize that repentance is a positive movement, with positive consequences for the repentant. To bring out these facts, read to the students the Mary Magdalene account in the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 7:36-38, 44-50).
 - a. In this story, how does repentance come about?
 - b. What is the reason which Jesus gives for saying that Mary's repentance is fruitful? (love, compare to v. 47a)
 - c. Does Jesus also love Mary?
 - d. How can you tell? What about Jesus' attitude bolsters Mary's act of repentance? (compare to .v. 44-47)
 - e. Can you believe that if Jesus loved Mary he loves you also?

(cont'd...)

- f. Does this make our repentance possible (or easier)?
- g. If sin is a refusal to love, define repentance.
- h. What do you think will be the results of Mary's acts of repentance in her own life? Will there be positive effects of this act of repentance by Mary?
- i. In your own life, what are the positive consequences of your acts of repentance? (Example answers: a more open relationship with the person that I have wronged.)