TEXT Luke 13:1-5; Isaiah 1:18; 55:6,7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Isaiah 53:6; Romans 8:1-16

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain what repentance is

and the necessity of it in order to be saved.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

— John 3:7

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous

man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will

abundantly pardon. — Isaiah 55:7

ANSWER TITLE: Repent and Be Saved

SEARCH TITLE: How Can I Be Saved?

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Isaiah lived under four of Judah's kings. During the reign of Hezekiah, when the worship of God was restored, there occurred a sweeping revival in the kingdom, and the people of the nation were turned toward God. This was near the end of Isaiah's life and, no doubt, was the result of the lifetime ministry by this godly man. Isaiah, through the Holy Spirit's inspiration, has given us many insights into God's sublime and wonderful plan concerning the coming of Christ, the dispersion and the restoration of the nation of Israel, and the coming millennial age.

From the time of the first sin and the knowledge of God's judgment, repentance and a sin offering were necessary for restoration to God's fellowship. Repentance was the theme of John the Baptist's preaching as well as that of Christ's. To repent is to turn from one's sins. When one repents he has a sorrow and a regret for his past; he has a desire to change for the better; he asks forgiveness and is willing to make right those things in his life which are against God and his fellowman.

YOUR OPENER			

RESPONSES

- 1. According to Webster's dictionary the word repent means, "to feel so contrite over one's sins so as to change or decide to change one's ways; be penitent." An individual may feel distressed or regret receiving the consequences of misconduct but that is not enough—he must change. Repentance is a word of action and power. When one repents unto salvation, it is literally a yielding of the will to God, and feeling sorry that he has grieved Him. This will be accompanied by a desire to never do so again. It also implies a continuation of this attitude throughout one's Christian experience.
- 2. Your students may refer to the key verse and answer that it is necessary for the wicked man to forsake his way. This is true. But before this can take place, he must recognize that his way is wrong in God's sight. They probably will further say that after forsaking his way, the sinful man must return to the Lord. Discussion should center around the fact that it is the Spirit of God that causes these things to happen in a person's life.
- 3. Discuss the fact that the Bible states that the devils believe and tremble, but they are not saved. A person may have a belief that Jesus truly is the Son of God, and yet still not be repentant. Ask your students why true faith cannot be separated from a willingness to obey God's Word, concluding that we cannot truly believe God without obeying Him, and we cannot obey Him without believing Him.

How Can I Be Saved?

TEXT: Luke 13:1-5; Isaiah 1:18; 55:6,7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 53:6; Romans 8:1-16

KEY VERSE: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. — Isaiah 55:7

The Bible tells us that "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." No one can go to Heaven who has not been cleansed from his sins. But before one can receive salvation and forgiveness, he must first repent of those sins he has committed.

- 1. What does repent mean?
- 2. What is necessary before a person can repent?
- **3.** Why might the statement, "I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ," be insufficient to bring about salvation?
- 4. Which words in the following verses indicate that repentance takes action?

Isaiah 1:18

Ezekiel 18:31

Hosea 14:2

Joel 2:12

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ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. What are the eternal consequences of the statement of Jesus, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"?	4. Isaiah 1:18 — come, reason Ezekiel 18:31 — cast away Hosea 14:2 — turn to the LORD Joel 2:12 — fasting, weeping, mourning As your students discuss the words they have found, help them bring out that one does not come to God without exerting some effort. A person will never drift into salvation. Ask your students if this action is always apparent. They should reach the conclusion that often repen- tance is accompanied by visible signs (tears, restitutions, etc.) but even if physical action is not observable, there will be an inward ac-
6. Many people attempt to justify the fact that they have sins which are unrepented of by saying their sins are not serious enough to require repentance. Why is this false?	tion—a turning to God and a complete rejection of all things evil or sinful.
7. How much does it cost a paragn to receive actuation?	5. The student should be aware that a choice must be made. One must either be sorry for his sins and gain Heaven for his eternal home, or show a rebellious self-sufficient attitude which will eventually damn him to eternal Hell and separation from God forever.
7. How much does it cost a person to receive salvation?	6. This question should help your students understand that there is no way for man to justify sin. All sin separates from God. A knowledge of sin in one's life brings condemnation. There is only one door to removal of that condemnation—that door is repentance.
8. How can you know you are saved?	7. There is no monetary price on salvation. The cost was paid by Jesus on Calvary. However, when a person becomes a Christian he gives his all to Christ—he gives his life. Have your students discuss the fact that a saved person will live a different kind of life. The grace of God that brings salvation teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. It further teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Some people fail to pay this price, feeling it is too high. How sad this is, for they are dealing with eternal life.
	8. When we repent of our sins and are willing to forsake them, God is faithful and just to forgive us. His Spirit will then bear witness that we are the children of God. Conclude your lesson by having your students discuss Romans 3:23, showing the need for all to repent and to seek salvation.
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YOUR WRAP-UP	
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SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What is repentance? Give some synonyms. What are some of the evidences of repentance?

Can you get saved without repenting? Why is only acceptance of Christ not enough?

Does just saying "I'm sorry" reflect real repentance? What else must be done?

Discuss the seriousness and finality of Christ's words, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

What is the opposite of a repentant spirit?

In verse 1 of our text, Pilate is mentioned. Who was he and what do you know about him?

Do you believe that all suffering is the result of sinning or wrongdoing? Why or why not?

Isaiah 55:6 says, "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found." Do you suppose there is a time when He might not be found? Explain.

In the ANSWER story, what things illustrate that Rick was truly sorry for the wrong things he had done?

THINGS TO DO

Explain that Rick, in the ANSWER story, took several steps to reach salvation. From construction paper, cut out four large footprints and label them, "Feels condemnation" (realizes he has done wrong), "Is sorry," "Asks forgiveness," "Believes and receives salvation." Have students arrange these in the right order. Explain why the order must be that way.

Invite someone to your class who testifies of a radical change in his life. Let him tell his story to your students.

Display the famous picture of Jesus knocking at the door which has no handle. Explain that when Jesus knocks at the door of someone's heart, only that person can open the door. Be sure they know that Jesus is knocking at the door of every heart. If possible, take students to a door

that will open only from inside and let them try opening it from the outside.

Using a set of Legos or other construction set, put together a house, car, or some other shape. Let the students look it over carefully, Then dismantle it and have them help you make a totally different shape. Liken this to how Jesus takes each of us and, when we repent and believe, makes us into something brand-new.

Bring two cups to class—one clean and one dirty. Explain that Heaven is for the pure in heart and that our "cup" must go through a cleansing process to be acceptable to God.

Answers for ANSWER

