

Sorry, Not Sorry

PART 1: MY BAD

INTRODUCTION

We have all done or said the wrong thing at some point in our lives. Saying sorry for the hurt or pain we've caused is never easy. But what if there was a new way to think about owning our mistakes? How do we change our minds when it comes to saying "I'm sorry"?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you had to apologize? Did you mean it? Were you tempted to give excuses for your behavior, words, or actions? Why do we sometimes find it difficult to apologize?
2. "Every mistake is an opportunity for growth." Can you give an example of someone who has grown from a mistake they made? Can you give an example of a time you've grown from a mistake you made?
3. What images come to mind when you hear the word *repent*? Is it positive or negative? Why do you respond to that word the way you do?
4. Does changing the definition of repent from "Turn from _____" to "Change of mind" make repenting sound more doable? Considering this new definition what do you need to repent of (change your mind about) when it comes to your thoughts and actions.
5. **Read Luke 18:9-14.**
Jesus contrasted two different types of people and two different ways of thinking about owning our actions and behavior. The Pharisees were seen as the righteous, religious elite. The tax collectors were seen as unrighteous, sinful traitors. But Jesus holds up the tax collector's humble attitude toward himself as the example we should follow. Which person do you identify with most in the story? Why? Which person in the story do you want others to see you as? Why?
6. Verse 14 says "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." How would you rewrite the verse in today's language? How would you apply it to yourself and your relationships?
7. The tax collector in Luke 18 owned his behavior (sin). "What do you need to own?" What behaviors, actions, words, thoughts, or attitudes do you need to own? How will you own them?

MOVING FORWARD

Owning our sinful behavior or words is the first step in being able to disown them. We can't disown something we haven't first owned. When we have the courage to say "I'm sorry," we turn our mistakes into opportunities for growth, our hard times into highlights, our messes into part of our message. How will you change the way you think about saying I'm sorry so that God can grow you?