

## Dgroup Discussion Guide for May 21, 2017

## Do A 180

**Scripture: Luke 15:11-32**

*Metanoia* (“meta” meaning “after” and “noeo” meaning “to know”) - the changing of the mind consequent to the after knowledge of sin; a turning away from sin toward God

*Metamelomai* is used to describe a change of mind, such as to produce regret or even remorse on account of sin, but not necessarily a change of heart. *Metanoia*, on the other hand, is used of true repentance, a change of mind and purpose and life, to which remission of sin is promised. Only the latter is considered true repentance. In other words, repentance is being sorry enough to do something about it.

True repentance begins after you realize that you have a need. Otherwise, there would be no reason for you to change direction and do a 180. In the parable, the prodigal son did not begin to regret his insolent behavior toward his father until he experienced hardships firsthand. After squandering his share of his father’s property, he found himself penniless and alone as the country he resided in went through famine. He couldn’t even alleviate his starvation with the leftovers he used to feed pigs. He realized that he needed to find a way out of his situation, because the freedom that he demanded from his father came with a price.

The realization forced him to come to his senses. He determined that under the circumstances, he would fare better under his father’s authority. After all, while he was struggling to find food, his father’s servants were well fed. He figured out that he would rather go back to his father. So, he devised a plan to go back, humbly ask for forgiveness, and request employment as a servant. In the execution of his plan, he displayed true repentance. He not only had a change of mind, but also a change in action.

The father, much like our Heavenly Father, allowed love to overtake all social and cultural norms that normally would have guided his actions. Not only was he awaiting his son’s return—an act that suggested he waited day and night for his return—but he ran toward him and embraced him. Luke 15:22 says, **“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.’”** The robe symbolized honor, the ring authority, and the shoes sonship. By the actions of the father, the son got full and complete restoration as a son.

His older brother, on the other hand, did not share in rejoicing over his return. In fact, he resented their father for celebrating his younger brother, because he felt as though he didn’t deserve the fanfare. Rather, he—who spent his life doing what is right by their family—deserved to be celebrated. However, as Jesus says in Luke 15:7, ***Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.***

God is not concerned with righteousness if it is not accompanied by repentance. This teaches us that instead of looking at others to measure our “goodness,” we must look to God only.

The Bible teaches us that true repentance is necessary for our salvation. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, ***For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*** It is not a one-time act, but an ongoing action in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ. We do not change to be born again, but we change *because* we are born again. True repentance should bring a change in your life. Romans 6:1-2 says, ***What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died in sin still live in it?*** To be complete, a change of mind needs a change in action.

#### **APPLICATION:**

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

1. Share how you were able to do a 180 and turn to God.
2. What area in your life do you still need to do a 180?
3. What evidence of repentance in your life do you see each day?

#### **PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.