



# ADVENT

Week 2

## *Peace on Earth*

### Current Series:

### Peace on Earth

### Advent

Nov 27 - Dec 18

How do we prepare for the Prince of Peace's arrival? By looking inwardly to assure that we are at peace, by bringing peace in the showing of empathy toward others, by taking action against that which does not bring peace, and highlighting the peaceful things that are already going on in our city.

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 1:1-8

### **Crazy Preaching:**

John the Baptist is a preacher in the wilderness. He's quite possibly the only successful street preacher there ever was. He tells people to repent and be baptized. People start coming over to be a part of baptism. Some Pharisees come along and John calls them a brood of vipers. It's a pretty crazy passage.

### **Discussion:**

1. What does repentance mean for you? Has your idea, meaning, connotation of repentance changed? Has it stay the same?
2. In the passage we see people who are indeed repenting and being baptized. Contextually, anyone who decides to be a part of this baptism is giving up an awful lot. They're giving up friends, culture, church, tradition, and family. What was baptism for the Jewish people that John encountered? Was it the same as we see today? Different? How so?

## Take Action:

Take some time to pray through the things in your life that need to be analyzed and changed.

Write down the things you want to repent of. Can you give that to someone in your group so that they can pray for you? If not, keep it for yourself.

How will your group work to bring repentance?

## Opportunities:

- 12/7 - [Nomi Network Annual Holiday Party](#)
- 12/9 - [Do For One Holiday Party](#)
- 12/14 - [Kenmore Game Night](#)
- 12/17 - [BCS Gift Wrapping](#)
- 12/20 - [Christmas Dinner with Boys Town](#)
- [Restore Gift Drive](#)

## Think through this as a group:

*"Repentance – which in Greek means something closer to "thinking differently afterwards" than it means change your cheating ways. Of course repentance CAN look like a prostitute becoming a librarian but repentance can also look like a whore saying ok I'm a sex worker and I have no idea how to get out but I can come here and receive bread and wine and maybe if only for a moment I can hold onto the love of God without being deemed worthy of it by anyone but God.*

*Repentance is a con artist being a real person for the first time ever without knowing who that person is anymore but knowing he sees it in the eyes of those serving him communion naming him a Child of God. Repentance is realizing there is more life to be had in being proved wrong than in continuing to think you're right. Repentance is the adult child of an fundamentalist saying I give up on waiting for my mom to love me for who I am so I'm gonna rely on God to help me love her for who she is because I know she's not going to be around forever. Repentance is unexpected beauty after a failed suicide attempt. Repentance is a couple weeks ago when the clerk at the Adult bookstore on Colfax teared up and said "your church brought me thanksgiving lunch?". Repentance is what happened to me when at the age of 28 my first community college teacher told me I was smart and despite all my past experience of myself I believed her. See, repentance is what happens to us when the Good News, the truth of who we are and who God is, enters our lives and scatters the darkness of competing ideas."*

- Nadia Bolz Weber

- Looking at this definition of repentance, does it change the way you think about it?
- With this definition in mind, what does repentance look like for you?
- What does repentance look like for us as a church community?