



## THE BIG IDEA

Advent teaches us that repentance is the bi-product of embracing the God who is already near us.

## WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

Because nothing kills the soul like believing that God is against us.

## WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Allow the nearness and love of God to form our perception of God.

## START HERE

We want our entire church to be a part of the conversation. If you missed any of the messages from Sunday, you can catch up [here](#).

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

This week's message was about realizing that God draws near to us out of compassion, not because of our behavior. Below are some questions that will help guide the discussion.

### Matthew 3:1-6

*In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:*

*"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,*

*'Prepare the way for the Lord,*

*make straight paths for him.'"*

*John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.*

### Repentance in the Bible

Repentance is one of those Christian ideas many of us have

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Book- *Astonished* by Mike Erre-  
[BUY](#)
- More resources posted on the  
Forefront blog- [READ](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Now through December

- Christmas with the Kenmore.  
Find out more at  
[forefrontnyc.com/kenmore](http://forefrontnyc.com/kenmore)

### December 22nd

- Christmas Eve Service at  
Roulette in Brooklyn. 7pm

### December 27th

- NO SERVICES ON SUNDAY

grown much too familiar with. However, many people have come to an understanding of repentance that doesn't quite get at the biblical idea. Many people think that the biblical idea of repentance is to change one's behavior in order to draw near to God. Ryan talked about how this idea paints our relationship with God as transactional. A transactional relationship with God is effective in modifying people's behavior, but it isn't actually helpful in becoming more connected to God. In the bible, repentance is a word that means "to change one's mind after being with." When John the Baptist calls people to repent, he does so because "the Kingdom of God has drawn near," not in order to make the Kingdom of God draw near. Paul says in Romans 2:4 that God's *kindness* leads us to repentance, not God's wrath.

### How have you experienced repentance in the past?

**Discuss the similarities and differences between your past understanding of repentance and the understanding presented in Ryan's message.**

**How has this series helped to form your ideas about Advent?**

## BENEDICTION

Holy God of Love,

There is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love.

A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness.

Amen