

REPENTANCE LITURGY

The following confession liturgy was prayerfully prepared for Staff Conference 2020 by a diverse team, after compiling what various leaders from across the movement had been hearing and praying for our community.

Psalm 51:1–2 NIV (converted to plural)

Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out our transgressions.
Wash away all our iniquity
and cleanse us from our sin.

Lord, we have relied on ourselves and not on you.

We have clung to control and independence.

We have indulged in overworking and sacrificed our health in the name of ministry.

We have become prayerless and we have not longed for the new life you want to bring.

Together: Have mercy on us, O God.

Lord, we have placed our own ideas and judgments above you.

We have seen ourselves as superior to others and our way of ministry as the best way.

We have been quick to assign motive and blame to those above us and around us when our expectations have not been met.

We have criticized one another, neglected partnership, and isolated ourselves.

Together: Have mercy on us, O God.

Lord, we have privileged those with access to resources and those who are most like us.

We have failed to build sufficiently equitable systems in hiring, funding, pay, and staff development.

We have treated one another with distrust and suspicion because of our differences.

In our mission field, we have invested in some types of campuses but have neglected others.

Together: Have mercy on us, O God.

Lord, we have dishonored and dehumanized one another with our power and influence.

We have pursued ways of thinking and operating that assume the normalcy and superiority of dominant cultures.

We have allowed assumptions about race, gender, sexuality, class, and ability to damage our interactions with one another.

Together: Have mercy on us, O God.

Lord, we have divided against one another in our pain and fear.

We have debated and taken sides in a way that silences and paralyzes both dominant-culture people as well as people on the margins.

We have withdrawn from difficult conversations for fear of being further marginalized or labeled cross-culturally incompetent.

We have resented others for the power they carry, and we have refused to acknowledge and properly steward the power we carry.

Together: Have mercy on us, O God.

Lord, we have turned to the things of this world to satisfy our desires instead of turning to you.

We have escaped reality through social media, binge-watching videos, and playing video games.

We have given ourselves over to the thrill of lust and pornography.

We have numbed ourselves with substances and materialism.

Together: Have mercy on us, O God.

Lord, we have sought ways to cope with pain and loneliness apart from you.

We have embraced bitterness against those who have hurt us.

We have allowed the world's definition of words like relevance, impact, success, and significance to define our ministry.

We have tolerated cynicism when we felt hopeless.

Together: Have mercy on us, O God.

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