

**Jeremiah 8.4-12**  
**5 sins of those who know God**  
**Notes for cell groups**

**1. Not having a habit of repentance (v4-6a)**

Repentance is not a one-off action, but a life-long habit. 2 pictures in v4: Everyone falls down sometimes; but how long do you wallow in sin before you get up? Everyone takes a wrong turn sometimes; but how quickly do you turn around and go back? God is eager to forgive (v6) but he needs to hear that we are repentant.

**2. Pursuing your own course (v6b-7)**

The sin of doing our own thing and not trusting God to guide us. 2 pictures: The charging horse, determined and focussed but without submitting to the Spirit – is that you? Migratory birds have an in-built sense of timings and seasons, but we often mis-apprehend the timings of God. Do you know what season you are in?

**3. Mis-handling the Word of God (8-10a)**

As long as there has been interpretation of the scriptures, there has been wrong interpretation of the scriptures. There is a right way and a wrong way of handling scripture. The right way is to consider the context and ask lots of questions. The wrong way is approach the Bible naively, lazily or presumptuously.

**4. Not taking responsibility for one another (10b-11)**

So often we don't take one another's wounds seriously. Am I my brother's keeper? – you bet! We must take our responsibility for one another seriously – God holds us accountable.

**5. Not blushing at sin (v12)**

How we feel reflects what we believe. If you don't feel ashamed of your sin, maybe you don't really believe that God hates sin. We must think rightly about God! God hates sin. He loves people. We see both in the cross. God's hatred of sin (wrath) and his love for people (mercy) meet in the cross.

Come and receive forgiveness at the cross and power to change how you live from the Holy Spirit!

**Questions for personal application (please do not attempt them all)**

1. Do you have a good habit of repentance, or are you always slow to repent?
2. Do you trust God to guide you, or do you find yourself pursuing your own course?
3. What steps are you going to take to handle the Bible more rigorously?
4. What is our responsibility towards others? Could the accusation in v11 be levelled at you?
5. Do you take seriously the fact that God hates sin? How should this affect the way we live?
6. Which of these 5 sins are you most guilty of?