

Sorrow Over Sin

When we are broken over the severity of our sin, we are positioned to experience the greatness of God's grace.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Psalm 51:1-19

June 28, 2020

(Psalm 51:1-19) For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. ¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. ¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- How would you define sin? What is the difference between being tempted and sinning?
- What are the best blessings of living the way God wants us to?
- What are the general consequences of sinning and choosing to live another way?

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

- Take a few minutes to look over 2 Samuel 11:1-27, the background of Psalm 51. What different ways did David sin in the Bathsheba affair? Who was affected by David's sin, both directly and indirectly?

Have a volunteer read Psalm 51:1-5

- How did God feel about what David had done? Why is our sin always ultimately against God?
- What is the main thing David is asking for in verses 1-5? How would you describe his attitude? What different characteristics of God does David affirm?
- What does forgiveness mean? Why do some people struggle with asking forgiveness from those they have wronged, or from God Himself?

Have a volunteer read Psalm 51:6-9

- What is David's general prayer in these verses? How do David's specific requests reflect his view of sin and of God?
- What changes when we acknowledge our sins and ask for forgiveness?

Have a volunteer read Psalm 51: 10-12

- In these verses, David prays for spiritual renewal. Why is renewal important after forgiveness? How do David's requests in these verses contribute to spiritual renewal?
- What is our role in renewal? What is God's role?
- Have you had a time when you lost the joy of your salvation? If so, what helped you find joy again? If you haven't found joy again, what do you think you need from God?

Have a volunteer read Psalm 51:13-19

- What promises does David make to God in these verses? How are each of those promises connected to God's grace and mercy in David's life? Are these things part of your relationship with God? Where is there room for improvement?
- What kinds of sacrifices does the Lord desire in verses 16-17? In verse 19? What would these sacrifices look like in your life?
- When is a broken spirit or contrite heart enough? When are acts of sacrifice due?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- Read Romans 3:23-26 aloud. What did Jesus accomplish on our behalf? What is the result?
- Why is courage required to identify and confess a sin to God? How can you get that courage?
- How do past sins impact a person's value and ability to serve God? Are you letting your past sins hinder your effectiveness for God? If so, what do you need to do to move forward?
- How should we treat others as a result of the freedom and forgiveness God has shared with us?
- David wrote out this psalm as a prayer of repentance. If there is a sin you struggle with, consider writing out a prayer of repentance to God. What do you need to confess? How do you want God to respond? Do this in your personal time with God this week.

PRAYER: Read Psalm 51 aloud once more as your group silently reflects on the Scripture. Then close with prayer, inviting God to help your group members recognize His willingness to forgive and their need to ask His forgiveness.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Psalm 119:129-176, 139
 DAY 2 – Psalm 148-150
 DAY 3 – 1 Kings 2
 DAY 4 – 1 Kings 3, 6
 DAY 5 – 1 Kings 8, 9:1-9

KEY VERSE: Psalm 139:23-24

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.