

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Psalm 51 we are shown David making 4 requests of God after Nathan called him to repentance.

- I. David asks for his sins to be forgiven.
  - A. Because of Your steadfast love (vs. 1-2).
  - B. Because of my sin (vs. 3-6).
- II. David asks for his relationship to be restored.
  - A. Cleanse me (vs. 7-9).
  - B. Recreate me (vs. 10-12).
- III. David asks for fruitful ministry.
  - A. Teaching others what I've learned (v. 13).
  - B. Singing about Your righteousness (v. 14).
  - C. Declaring Your praise (v. 15).
  - D. Worshiping as You desire (vs. 16-17).
- IV. David asks for corporate restoration (vs. 18-19).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 16, 2016

Passage: Psalm 51:1-19

Memory Passage: Psalm 51:10-12 (If you already know these, which you probably do from a chorus we sing, then memorize vs. 7-10)

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Sam. 11:1-12:23 & Psalm 51.** Psalm 51 is inspired by a familiar incident in David's life. Read 1 Sam. 11:1-12:23 as if you had never heard the story (i.e. carefully & fully engaged). Write down (1) details that you had either forgotten or never seen before, and (2) details that you read in a fresh way or with brighter light being shown.

(b) According to the superscript, when in the story did David write this Psalm?

(c) What similarities do you see between David's response to Nathan, his actions during his child's sickness, and his response to God?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 51.** On what basis does David cry out for mercy from God, and what right does he have to do this?

(b) Why is mercy required (notice the progression in vs. 3-4: "For . . . and . . . and . . . so that . . . and")?

(c) What is the benefit of having your own sin "ever before" you? What role did this play in assisting David in his progression from plea to confession?

(d) Explain the meaning of the 2 "Behold" statements (vs. 5-6), their relationship to one another, and how they continue the thoughts of vs. 3-4.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 51.** For what is David asking in v. 7 (cf. Ex. 12:22; Lev. 14:6ff; Numb. 19:16-19)? Is it different from his request in vs. 1-2? Explain.

(b) How can "broken bones" rejoice (v. 8) and what does this tell us about the consequences of sin?

(c) Consider vs. 10-12: Explain (1) what David requests, (2) why he needs what he requests, and (3) how the requests are both related (notice "spirit/Spirit" is found in each verse) and different.

(d) How should believers today, living after the cross, understand and apply these verses?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 51.** What good does David anticipate from his situation (his sin, response, and God's response) in vs. 13-15?

(b) What is the relationship between sacrifices and the state of the worshiper's heart (vs. 16-17)?

(c) What types of activities would fall into the category of "sacrifices" and "burnt offerings" in your own life, and what does Psalm 51 teach you about (1) their importance, and (2) the relationship of your heart to these activities?

(d) Write a testimony of ways in which God has granted you the benefits found in vs. 13-17 after responding properly to sin.

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 51.** Explain how vs. 18-19 fit into Psalm 51 as a whole.

(b) Are you functioning with a "broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart?" What needs to happen in your relationship with God and your relationship with sin for you to live in this state?

(c) Explain the progression of dealing with sin David describes in vs. 1-17. Ask God to reveal patterns of sinfulness in your life, and write down how you will apply David's progression to your own sin (or better yet, just do it, right now), including the desired outcomes.

(d) **Read Psalm 51, Prov. 28:13 & James 5:16.** What benefits are available to those who confess their sins to other believers? How should this confession be done (i.e. in what circumstances, how would it be done wisely, etc.)? What dangers should be avoided in applying this practice?

DATE: October 16, 2016

PASSAGE: Psalm 51:1-19