



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Winter Quarter - Lesson 1 - Week of January 15, 2023

Lesson: THE CONFESSION (Psalm 51)

Bible Verses: Psalm 51; II Samuel 12:7; Exodus 33:12-23; Romans 5:12;
I John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13; Psalm 32:5

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- When you are unable to sleep at night, what do you do to get to sleep?
- What is your favorite park to visit in Georgia?

DISCUSSION

KEY TERMS

- **Transgression:** Refers to crossing a forbidden boundary with the thought that this is serious rebellion.
- **Iniquity:** It means perversion and refers to what we usually call original sin or the depravity of our natures (verse 5).
- **Sin:** Falling short or missing the mark.

Psalm 51 deals with true confession as seen in the life of David. Having committed adultery with Bathsheba and ordering the execution of her husband, David apparently refused to deal with his sin for nine months. When Nathan, the prophet, told him a very pointed parable about a man who had stolen a lamb, David said, "That man shall surely die." Then Nathan looked at him and said, "Thou art the man," referring to his stealing Bathsheba from Uriah (2 Samuel 12:7). This, at last, caused David to admit his sin. Psalm 51 is the confession David made. As seen in this psalm, true confession deals with three basic areas:

1. A right view of sin, as seen in verses 1 through 5.
2. A right view of God, as seen in verses 6 through 12.
3. A right view of self, as seen in verse 13 through 19.

Lest we miss the force of the important beginning of this psalm, David elaborates his opening by two words that also highlight an important aspect of God's character: unfailing love and compassion. God is love and full of compassion. Mercy denotes God's loving assistance to the pitiful. Unfailing love points to the continuing operation of this mercy. Compassion teaches that God feels for our infirmities.

1. Why does God hate sin?
2. What does sin do to us?
3. What do we learn about sin from this Psalm?

The words sin, iniquity, transgression, and evil all describe the seriousness of what David did. David used the word transgression, which means to rebel against divine law. Yes, sin defies God. And it also destroys man. The effects of David's sin led to the murder of an innocent man, a wife losing her husband, and the death of a child.

1. How does the biblical view of sin differ from the world's view of sin?
2. What do we learn about God from Psalm 51?

When we sin, after we confess and repent, we must cling to God for mercy. We cannot come to God on the basis of His justice; justice strikes us with fear and causes us to hide from Him. God has revealed to us that He is merciful.

1. Where do we learn that God is merciful?
2. How would you define mercy?
3. Why is mercy so important?

A right view of sin carries with it the understanding that sin deserves judgment. But God extends mercy to us instead of judgment if we confess our sin and repent. What relief do we get from confession of our sins?

Sin separates us from God. David knew that he had to get back to God. While we attempt to get back to God following our separation from Him, we must rely upon the merits of the Lamb of God.

1. Psalm 51:2: How is coming to God like washing your clothes?
2. Psalm 51:3: How is transgression different from sin?

God is powerful, and David believed God had the power to change him. In verses 7 and 8 of Psalm 51, he prayed, "Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness...."

1. Do you believe that God can change you?
2. Have you ever been changed following your confession to God?

When David sinned, he could have brought all kinds of sacrifices to God, but they would not have pleased the Lord. God was waiting for the sacrifice of a broken heart (verse 17). God looks at our hearts. He wants sincerity from the heart, not religious routine. There is great value in our confessions of sin to God. We can spend much time in our lives concealing our sins from ourselves and others. However, if we want to grow and please the Lord, we must learn to confess our sins and become free.

Prayer Focus: God, show me the sin in my life through the power of your word and the Holy Spirit.

Scripture to Remember: Proverbs 28:13 – "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy."