

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Psalm 51

- Read through Psalm 51
- What insight, principle, or observation from Sunday’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- Read and discuss the following paraphrase of David’s sin.
 - One spring day from his palace roof, when David should have been at war with his men, he saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba, desired her for himself, and committed adultery with her. When he found out she was pregnant, he had her husband, Uriah the Hittite, sent into the hottest part of the battle with the Ammonites, where he would be killed. David then proceeded to take Bathsheba as his own wife, pretending to be merciful to Uriah by taking on his pregnant widowed wife and child as his own.
- Why was David’s sin so horrendous?
- Read and discuss 2 Samuel 12:1-13.
- Why do you think God confronted David in this way?
- Read Psalm 51:1-2 and compare it to Exodus 34:6-7
- How can we find comfort in the character of God when we sin?
- Read and discuss the following quote
 - **Commentator** - When sin disrupts the fellowship with the covenant-Lord, the sinner has no right to divine blessings. However, the Lord has promised to forgive, and his forgiveness is based solely on his love and compassion. Therefore, David appeals to the Lord’s “love” and His “great compassion,” knowing he is in covenant relationship with the LORD.

- Read Psalm 51:1-2 and compare it to Exodus 34:6-7.
- With Exodus 34:6-7 in mind, discuss the differences between mercy (v. 6 & 7) & justice (end of v. 7).
- How can a just God forgive David?
 - Read Colossians 2:14 & Romans 3:23-25 to help answer this question.
- Pay attention to the personal pronouns in verse 1-4. What does David's example in these verses tell us about true repentance?
 - *Leaders Cheat: True repentance doesn't blame-shift.*
- Discuss when in your life you are tempted to blame-shift instead of owning your own personal sin.
- Read verse 4. Why does David say this when it is obvious he had sinned against Uriah?
- What do verses 4 & 5 tell us about sin?
- What do verses 8 & 12 tell us are the effects of sin within a believer? (pay attention to who is breaking David's bones).
- Have you ever felt the heavy hand of the Lord because of sin? How is this heavy hand grace from God and how does it keep us from sinning?
- What changes in verse 13? Compare this verse to the end of Psalm 73 (verse 28).
- What is the correlation between repentance and action?
 - **One Commentator** - There is a close connection between a joyous faith and an infectious one, and between experiencing restoration and leading others to that knowledge.
- What do verses 16-17 say about the heart in connection to obedience?

Read this prayer from George Matheson on Psalms 51 - *My God, set right the broken spring. Restore to me the joy of your salvation. You have given me back my freedom; give me back my wings. Take away the weariness, the jadedness, that follow the hour of struggle. Heal the shrinking of the sinew that succeeds the angel's blessing. Remove the paralysis that lingers after the sorrow itself has fled. When I stand beside the fountains of living water, wipe away past tears from my eyes.*