

Sermon Study | Summer in the Psalms

Get Real | Psalm 51

July 28, 2019

Dive deeper into this week's message and passages from the Bible. Here are some questions to help you guide your group discussion.

We often assume that prayer is what good people do when they are at their best, but that isn't true! Prayer is what imperfect people do with their imperfections. We all have a stain in our lives. As hard as we try on our own to scrub it out, it won't ever go away. Conviction might be uncomfortable, but it's a gift from God that brings us back to Him whenever we are heading in the wrong direction. When we genuinely repent, or get real with God, we can experience joy!

Read Psalm 51:1-7 and 2 Peter 3:9. David wrote Psalm 51 after the lowest point in his life. He committed adultery, got the woman pregnant, and then arranged to have her husband killed. After his friend Nathan confronted him about all this, David felt conviction for his sins and cried out for mercy to God.

- When you sin, what is your reaction – to run from God or toward Him? Explain.
- While conviction is a gift that leads to repentance and connection with God, condemnation causes shame and disconnect. How have you believed conviction and condemnation are synonymous? How have you experienced the difference between the two?
- In the face of conviction, do you tend to believe the lie "I'm not worthy" or "I'm not that bad"? Explain.

Read Psalm 51:8-10 and verses 16-17 and 2 Corinthians 3:16-17. Sometimes when the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, it can feel like He is undoing us. But the purpose of God's discipline isn't to pay us back for our sins, but to bring us back. This results in genuine joy!

- Do you ever believe God is "out to get you" for your sins? If so, explain. How does this belief affect your prayer life?
- What feelings do you experience when you repent of something the Holy Spirit has convicted you of?
- What does your worship of God indicate about your relationship with God? Do you come to church ready to cry out in worship? What would it take for you to be ready to lean into God in worship, and come ready to hear from the Holy Spirit?

REFLECT

What is God saying to you through His word? How and when will you respond?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Need a review of what we're reading in Daily Bible Reading? Here's a glance at how we're being challenged this week.

Day One: Psalm 51:1-3 | Have mercy.

Day Two: Psalm 51:4-7 | Conviction for connection.

Day Three: 2 Peter 3:9 | Conviction vs. condemnation.

Day Four: Psalm 51:8-10 and 16-17 | Joyful worship.

Day Five: 2 Corinthians 3:16-17 | True freedom.