

Confession - Psalm 51

1

When you've hurt someone close to you, what makes it hard to say sorry? What does it feel like to be forgiven?

READ PSALM 51

David wrote this psalm after his adultery with Bathsheba and the killing of her husband Uriah (2 Samuel 11-12).

2

v1-2: Before David even mentions his sin, what does he appeal to in God? Why does that matter?

3

v3-6: How does David describe his sin? What does David see as the main problem with his sin, even though it also hurt others?

4

v7-12: What does David ask God to do? What does he want beyond just being forgiven?

5

v13-17: What changes for David once he's forgiven? What kind of sacrifice does God really want?

6

1 John 1:9 promises that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us. How does Jesus give us even more confidence than David had to come clean with God?

7

When you sin, do you tend to hide it, excuse it, or beat yourself up over it? How does this Psalm guide us into honest confession?

READ PSALM 51 AGAIN.

This time pray each section below, then leave time for more prayer before continuing to the next section.

1) v1-2 Mercy: ask God for mercy, trusting his unfailing love and great compassion.

2) v3-6 Confess: silently name before God the specific sins you need to bring to him.

3) v7-12 Renew: ask God to wash you clean, give you a pure heart and restore the joy of his salvation.

4) v13-17 Respond: offer God a humble heart, and ask him to use your forgiven life to point others to him.