

# Water of Life Community Church

## PRAYING POWERFUL PRAYERS

WEEK 3

PSALM 51

### LEADER NOTES

Your Participants will only see the text noted in **bold**.

### ICE BREAKER

- Have you ever received an apology that was less than stellar? What was wrong with it?
- Have you ever given an apology that was less than stellar? Why?

Apologies are always difficult. We so often want to leave the person we are apologizing to with a reason we were so thoughtless. We don't want to be seen as a bad person, even if we were. How many times have we received an apology with a list of excuses? Is that kind of apology sincere?

### OPEN IN PRAYER

Father God, we cannot hide anything from You. While that may seem scary, it is very freeing. You know all about us and still love us. Help us become transparent with You, owning up to all we do wrong and not offering excuses. It is only as we recognize our sin, confessing it and asking for forgiveness that we can be truly free from it. We thank You that You always forgive us. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

### WORSHIP

If you're looking for help with worship, head to <https://vimeo.com/album/2977729> and choose a couple of the songs you find there. The password is wolsg. Worship is also available at the beginning of each teaching video on our YouTube channel at [mywolgroup.com](http://mywolgroup.com).

# INTRODUCTION

We all deal with regret... when we own our stuff, God does amazing things to restore life to us. When we don't, we pay a huge price. In Psalm 51, we read about David's owning up to his sin. He offers no excuses, and blames no one but himself. As we look at this Psalm, we learn how to approach God with complete transparency, and in humility we are able to receive the deep healing and forgiveness we need.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

### 1. READ PSALM 51:1-4.

- a. In these verses, can you identify any excuses, blame shifting, or avoiding responsibility for what David did? Have you ever been caught, and then responded this way? Why or why not?
- b. Has anyone ever apologized to you like this? No excuses, no blame shifting? Have you ever apologized to anyone like this? Why is this so hard?

We are always concerned with how people perceive us. We don't ever want people to really see how selfish we can be. Sometimes we don't want to lose respect, or even control by admitting our faults and our shortcomings. David was guilty of adultery, murder, and covering up what he did. He knew he violated people, but he knew he violated God more. Even if we think our sins are not that big, we hurt the people around us with our sin, and not owning up to it, we make the wounds deeper.

### 2. READ PSALM 51:6-12.

- a. In these verses, David makes a plea to God. He offers no bargain to God, just accepts God's word to be true. David agrees with God. Why do we often find that hard to do?
- b. Have you ever tried to bargain with God? What did that look like?

Each one of us has learned how to make ourselves look better than we are. However, with God, that doesn't work. We can only get complete freedom and healing by being honest and agreeing with God.

### 3. READ PSALM 51:12-13.

- a. David does not promise to make changes himself. Have you asked God to help you not become a repeat offender?
- b. Verse 13 is David realizing that he cannot serve God until God heals him and makes him whole. Do we often try to continue serving God when we have not allowed God to cleanse us from our sins? How does that work?

David asks God to help him to grow; admits his need for God to heal him. He does this so that he does not go back to his sin again. David knows he cannot do this alone. His repentance includes a commitment to live it out daily, and not go back.

### 4. READ PSALM 51:14-17.

- a. In verses 14-15, David knows that he cannot praise God until he is healed and restored. What does your worship look like when you are harboring hidden sin that is not confessed?
- b. Verses 16-17 express what God is really looking for. What is it? What does that look like for you?

Here is the answer to what God is really after, not dead animals on the altar, but broken hearts that chase after Him. God is after humble or low hearts, and a broken spirit. 2 Corinthians 7:10 states, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

## PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- Ask God if there is someone that you need to apologize to; no excuses, no blaming others. How will you prepare what you will say?
- Did you make your apology? How was your apology accepted?

Bringing the teaching to our lives can be scary and unpredictable. Making the apology we need to make can be hard, but it can also sometimes repair a relationship. Ask God to direct you to whom and when you should apologize.

# GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

## REFLECT

- David learned how to make things right with God. Do you know how to do this?

## RESPOND

- Talk to God today and ask Him if there is anything that you need to come clean about with Him.

*Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "eDevotional" to 67076; or go to [wolgroups.com](http://wolgroups.com) and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week's theme.*

## MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 51:10-12

"Create in me a clean heart, God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit."

## COMMENTARY

Prayer for the remission of sin. Concerning the interchangeable names for sin, vid., on [Psalms 32:1](#). Although the primary occasion of the Psalm is the sin of adultery, still David says פשעי , not merely because many other sins were developed out of it, as his guilt of blood in the case of Uriah, the scandal put into the mouths of the enemies of Jahve, and his self-delusion, which lasted almost a whole year; but also because each solitary sin, the more it is perceived in its fundamental character and, as it were, microscopically discerned, all the more does it appear as a manifold and entangled skein of sins, and stands forth in a still more intimate and terrible relation, as of cause and effect, to the whole corrupt and degenerated condition in which the sinner finds himself. In מהח sins are conceived of as a cumulative debt (according to [Isaiah 44:22](#), cf. [Isaiah 43:25](#), like a thick, dark cloud) written down ([Jeremiah 17:1](#)) against the time of the payment by punishment. In כבסני (from כבס , πλύνειν , to wash by rubbing and kneading up,

distinguished from γη , λούειν , to wash by rinsing) iniquity is conceived of as deeply ingrained dirt.

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/kdo/psalms-51.html>