



SELAH - A HEART OF REPENTANCE (3): Psalm 51

Small Group Discussion Guide // June 17, 2018

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that challenged, intrigued, surprised, bothered, confused, or was new to you?
2. Pastor Scott explained that the account of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12) is the backstory to Psalm 51. He used the illustration of watching his children climb a tree to describe the pattern that sin can take in our lives.
How did that illustration reveal itself in King David's actions?
3. There are a number of ways that sin can deceive us. Two of the deceptions that Pastor Scott mentioned are thinking *no one will ever find out* and that *our sin only affects us*.
How might this type of deceptive thinking have effected David's situation? Do you remember a time when sin had led you to some deceptive thoughts? If yes, briefly describe how that felt. How do we guard ourselves from being deceived?
[LEADER - You may mention that these deceptions pull you further away from God and deeper into sin.]
4. Read Psalm 51:1-3, Acts 3:19 - Repentance is not just an action, it's a change of heart, thoughts, desires.
What drives David to a heart of repentance? How is repentance more than an apology? How might mourning be a part of repentance? What does repentant confession provide for us?
[LEADER - You may want to remind the group of how Nathan confronted David in 2 Samuel 12 -As a follow up question you may ask if anyone, after apologizing, changed their actions & words, but not their heart or thoughts? Is that true repentance?]
5. Read Psalm 51: 7-10
How many different ways does David ask God for a clean heart? It is obvious that David has come to the realization that he cannot purify himself. **What are examples of how people try to take care of their sins on their own terms?**
6. Read 1 John 1:7-9
Have you experienced the restoring power of God in your life? If so, how would you describe that experience to someone who is far from God?