

Small Group Study Summer Semester Week Two

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) How is your summer going so far? What has been your favourite summer activity/trip so far? What are you most excited about in the rest of the summer?
- b) If you could suddenly become fluent in a language, which language would it be? Which languages do you currently speak?

Passage and Discussion

Read Psalm 51

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) **Psalm 51** begins with the phrase "to the Choirmaster." David composed this Psalm of confession so that it may be sung by everyone. What does this teach us about the nature of confession among God's people? What does it tell us about how we should practice repentance in the Church?
- c) This Psalm comes out of the story of David and Bathsheba. Read the story **2 Samuel 11-12**. How do you react to this story? How does it tell you about God and redemption that someone as flawed as David played an important role in Scripture?
- d) David begins this Psalm by Addressing God. When you have sinned, is your default to run to God, or run from Him? How does bringing your sin to God change the situation? Is it in line with **Psalm 32:4-5**?
- e) David spends much of the Psalm 'Acknowledging his sin' and 'Accepting the guilt' for it. In what ways is this counter-cultural? In what ways do we try to justify our behaviors, so that we do not need to take responsibility for it? How does taking responsibility for our sin change the process?
- f) In **v4**, David claims that it is "only against [God]" that he has sinned. How should the fact that every sin is to be understood as an act of rebellion against God affect our attitude towards sin? What does this tell us about the seriousness of our sin?
- g) In **v5**, David brings up the idea of his 'sinful nature'. Do you typically think of sin in terms of what you do, or who you are? How does thinking about sin as greater than just our actions, change our thoughts about its significance, or how we can repent of it?

- h) Explain, if you can, the difference between remorse and repentance. How are they different? Why does repentance demand a changed heart, and not just a change in behaviour? Have you ever asked God for a pure heart? How has this process unfolded in your life?
- i) In **v13**, David says that he wants to use his forgiveness to help others walk in repentance. How has God used others in your life to help you in your struggle with sin? How has God used your struggles to help others?
- j) In your own life, have you ever believed that you had sin that was “too big” for God to forgive? Do you still wrestle with this belief? How does reading these Psalms help you understand the extent of God’s forgiveness?
- k) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging? Did you learn anything about the Psalms that you didn’t know before?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) This week, continue reading through the Psalms! Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring a new Psalm each week, so continue reading them to have them in your mind as we learn them together as a church community.
- b) This week, set aside time for a time of confession with God. We do not confess our sins to earn forgiveness, but there is freedom in being honest with God about what we are struggling with. Ask Him to remind you that your sin has been forgiven through the sacrifice of Christ.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to ‘check-in’ about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) As a group, take time to praise God for His forgiveness towards us. Although you don’t need to confess individual sins as a group (unless you feel comfortable to do that!), make sure to spend time thanking God for His grace and mercy towards us, as His children.