



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"PSALM 51" ON JULY 14-17, 2022

### CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER: PSALM 46

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

**How healthy is your heart? Our hearts matter! In today's world we are encouraged to do all kinds of things to promote good heart health – eat the right foods, take the right supplements, get the right amount of exercise – so that we can live a long and productive life. What is true for the body is true for the heart. In Psalm 51, King David goes beyond the physical heart to speak about the spiritual condition of the heart. He confronts and confesses his own personal sin, recognizing the need for his heart to be made clean according to God's standards. How do we get a clean heart?**

**PSALM 51:1-6 THE RIGHT DIAGNOSIS** David's heart diagnosis is OUR heart diagnosis. Sometimes our spiritual hearts feel 'dirty' – our hearts are sick, and we need a transplant that only God can accomplish! Read II Samuel 12:1-14 to grasp the nature of David's sin and the consequences he would experience. David's response to recognition of his sin against God is described in these verses.

- How does Psalm 51 show David's response to being confronted with his sin? What words describe the condition of his heart and his desire for change? What can we learn from his response?
- In his message, Dr. Jones referred to four terms mentioned in the first six verses of Psalm 51: 'transgressions,' 'iniquity,' 'sin' and 'evil.' What is your understanding of each of these terms, and where can you point out examples of them in your own life or in the world around you?
- God created us and wants the best for us. If you were ruthlessly honest about your own flaws, weaknesses, and rebellion, how would you cry out to God? What lines He has drawn in your life have you crossed intentionally or unintentionally, and how does that affect your relationship with Him?

**PSALM 51:7-12 THE RIGHT OPERATION** Only God has the ability to deal with the spiritual condition of our hearts.

- David uses these terms to plead with God – 'purge me,' 'wash me,' 'create in me a clean heart,' 'renew a right spirit within me,' and 'restore to me the joy of your salvation' ....how can you direct each of those terms into your own heart's condition and need for cleansing? What do these terms really mean to you as you confront your own sin?
- David came to God in a desperate state, needing a cleansing only God could give. We, too, are in a desperate state and need God's cleansing because of our sinful nature. How willing are you to allow God full access to truly cleanse your heart? What might be standing in your way?

**PSALM 51:13-19 THE RIGHT PROGNOSIS** David's prognosis is the same as our prognosis: The likely outcome when we allow God to do His necessary work in us is a spiritually healthy heart fit as a dwelling place for our Savior and King!

- How much does the state of your heart matter to you? What unconfessed sin are you carrying that needs God's healing touch? How fit is your heart to be a dwelling place for Christ?
- David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him. He was the greatest king of Israel, an ancestor of Jesus Christ, and was described by God Himself as a man after His own heart! How does Psalm 51



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

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encourage you and inspire to you to examine and nurture your relationship with Christ, through whom our hearts are continually rinsed clean?

- Complete this thought according to your own heart: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then \_\_\_\_\_

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.