

DISCUSSION GUIDE (July 23, 2023)

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Message: *Confess Your Mess* (series: *Wise Up*)

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Psalm 32:1-5: *Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And You forgave the guilt of my sin.*

Psalm 51:1-12: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight; so You are right in Your verdict and justified when You judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS: Five steps to help you **Start Over**

- Start by coming clean
- Turn away from your sin and turn toward Jesus
- Acknowledge and confess your sin
- Realize repentance can take time
- Take the initiative to restore your relationship with God

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Read 2 Samuel 11** for David's back story. He focused on his own desires and turned toward temptation instead of away from it. As a result, he committed adultery and murder and lied to everyone around him. Is there a temptation in your life that you find difficult to turn away from? Explain.
- 2. Read Psalm 32:1-5.** Is life heavy right now because you have hidden sin in your life? Have you been like David, where one wrong step led to a bad choice and then a dark path? Has there been a time that you have turned from your sin and turned to Jesus? Do you notice what happened when David confessed his sin to God?
- 3. Read Psalm 51:1-12.** What are the big or small sins that you need to confess to God? What is your "it" you've been tempted by that you need to confess?
- 4.** Is sin creating a wedge between you and God? What are the sins that you need to clean out of your garage today? Are you feeling distant from God because you need to confess your mess? Are you willing to do that today?

Dear Heavenly Father, forgive us for the times that we wander from You and choose to go our own way. Help us to realize that we can start over when we come to You and confess our mistakes and failures. Help us to realize that You love us unconditionally, no matter what we have done. Thanks for loving us, God. Amen.