



## **Christmas Shadows | Week 4 Study Guide**

### **Meaning from our past. Hope for our future.**

**Bible Text:** Philippians 3, Psalm 32 & 51

### **Open Up**

Do you set New Year's Resolutions? If so, what is one for the upcoming year?

What is a highlight from this past year? What is something you wish you could have had a "do over" on?

### **Dig In**

#### **Read Philippians 3:12-14**

According to these verses, what is the key to moving forward spiritually in this upcoming year?

What is this spiritual optimism rooted in (see vs. 7-11)?

Sometimes it's hard to let go of past failures (even when we've repented of them). King David (the great grandson of Ruth) was a great king and lover of God but he made a huge sinful mistake (read about it in 2 Samuel 11). But he ultimately repents of his sin (2 Samuel 12). His prayer after repenting of his sin is found in Psalm 32 and 52. Take a moment to read Psalm 32:1-5, 10-11 and 51:1-12.

What stood out to you in these Psalms? How do they offer encouragement for the upcoming year?

In Philippians 3, Paul said to "forget" our past sins. He meant not to bring them back up as a form of guilt and condemnation. God has "forgotten" them (Psalm 103:12). However, we can learn from our past. What is something you've learned the hard way from this past year?

What are you most hopeful for (in your life) this upcoming year? What would you like to see God accomplish in your life this year?

### **Close Out**

If there are past failures still causing you guilt and shame (even though you've repented), will you ask God to help remove that guilt and shame today?

Pray by faith for one spiritual goal this upcoming year.

End this study by reading Psalm 30.