

**“Coming Clean”**  
Growth Group Discussion Guide  
Psalm 51

**Intro questions**

- Share about a time, during your childhood, when you were “caught red-handed.” How did you respond to being caught in something wrong?
- Today’s discussion deals with confessing our sin. Take a moment to pray, asking for God’s Spirit to lead your discussion.

**1. Review 2 Samuel 12:7-14, then discuss the following.**

- What made Nathan’s confrontation of David effective?
- How do you think David handled being confronted in this instance?
- What do you think of God’s response—through Nathan—to David’s confession?
- How do you feel about the prospect of confessing your sin to God? To another person?

**2. Read Psalm 51:1-12, then discuss the following.**

- How would you summarize David’s pleas to God? What is he asking for?
- What is the basis (grounds for) David’s cry for mercy?
- Could you earnestly say what David says in v. 3? Why or why not?
- Pastor Josh said on Sunday that an essential part of confession is agreeing with God about our sin. How do you see this principle in David’s prayer (Psalm 51)?
- That agreement includes acknowledging the following four aspects. (See discussion prompts below).
  - **We have real, objective guilt.**
  - **Our sin is not a fluke; it reflects our heart.**
  - **Our sin is first and foremost against God.**
  - **God would be right to judge and even condemn us.**
- Discuss each one of these aspects, using these prompts:
  - Do you agree that this is a necessary aspect of confession? Why or why not?
  - How do you feel about this aspect?
  - What questions does this raise for you?

**3. Read Psalm 51:13-19, then discuss the following.**

- These verses describe what David will do as a result of God’s cleansing of him. What stands out among these actions?
  - Why might a fallen and forgiven sinner be more effective at these things ?
- Pastor Josh said that another essential part of confession is agreeing with God about our cleansing. How do you see this principle in David’s prayer?
- That agreement includes acknowledging the following two aspects. (See discussion prompts below).
  - **Agreeing that your cleansing can only happen because of what Jesus did.**
  - **Agree that you really are clean!**
- Discuss:
  - Why is each one of these aspects *theologically* important?
  - What is the *practical* importance of each of these aspects?

- "What other aspects of David's prayer, or the topic confession, jump out at you? Is there some aspect of this topic that you're hoping we will discuss?"
- Is there any area of this content that push back against? Please share about that area.

#### **4. Prayer**

- Pray for the ability to act on what God has shown you through this study. Today might be a time to invite confession in prayer—perhaps even sub-dividing into gender-based smaller groups, if your group is at this level of vulnerability.
- Pray for one another about any other needs that have been mentioned.