

# CONFESSTION

## Psalm 51

PAT NEMMERS

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This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

### CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- When you hear the word confession, what emotions or images come to mind - relief, fear, shame, freedom, something else? Why?
- Can you remember a time when you, or someone you know, confessed sin - either long ago or recently? What was the result?

### APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, Pastor Pat walked through Psalm 51 as the greatest confession in Scripture and highlighted four things we ask God for in confession.

#### Four Gifts From God In Confession:

##### 1. **Mercy (Psalm 51:1-6)**

- David appeals to God's character ("steadfast love," "abundant mercy") rather than defending himself. Why is that significant?
- Pastor Pat emphasized that mercy is God's custom. How does believing—or doubting—that affect the way we confess sin?
- Verse 6 says God desires "truth in the inward being." Why do our hearts and mouths often fail to line up when it comes to confession?

##### 2. **Cleansing (Psalm 51:7-9)**

- David uses strong language: wash, cleanse, purge. What does that tell us about how deeply sin affects us?
- Pastor Pat noted that David had been staring at his sin for a year instead of setting the Lord before him. What are some signs that someone is living with unconfessed sin?

##### 3. **Restoration (Psalm 51:10-12)**

- Pastor Pat said David didn't lose his salvation—he lost his joy. Why is that an important distinction?
- What does it look like, practically, to seek restored joy at "the throne of grace"?

##### 4. **Usefulness (Psalm 51:13-17)**

- Why does David say "then" he will teach others (v.13)? Why does restoration have to come before usefulness?
- Pastor Pat warned against trying to compensate for hidden sin with religious activity. Why is that temptation so strong?
- What does a "broken and contrite heart" look like in real life—not just in words?

### *Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?*

### PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray Psalm 51:10 together aloud: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- Pray for: Courage to confess honestly, faith to believe God's mercy, cleansing through Christ, restoration of joy, humble usefulness after repentance.

