

CONFESSION

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.

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.

