

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9, 2009

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

A Contrite Heart

"An implicit confession is almost as bad as an implicit faith; wicked men commonly confess their sins by wholesale - we are all sinners; but the true penitent confesses his sins by retail."

- **Thomas Brooks**

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

-1 **John 1:8-2:2**

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Psalm 51

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

2 Sam 11-12; Psalm 32; Isaiah 1, 63; Lev 14, 20:10; Ex 12, 21:23; Gen 9:6; Deut 33:10; Numbers 19; Pr 6:20-7:27, 28:13; Luke 15; Rom 3; Mat 5; John 19

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The circumstances surrounding David's plea
 - The tone that David employs in writing this Psalm
 - The words and images David chooses
 - The self awareness evident in this song
 - The implications of it being a public worship song
 - The kind and intensity of need expressed here. What needs does David list?
 - The extent of depravity identified

- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Corinth then, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- In what ways are you most aware of your own depravity? What kinds of things help make you aware of your own sin?
- In what ways do you identify yourself as the rich man in Nathan's parable?
- When your conscience is convicted like David's, how specifically do you respond?
- Why would God kill the baby born to Bathsheba? Is it an act of justice or mercy?
- Do you think Bathsheba was complicit in the affair, or do you think she was a victim? Why?
- What is an example of a consequence you've experienced from your sin? How have you seen God's mercy at work even in those consequences?
- What is the difference between God punishing sin and allowing consequences from sin? (look at Hebrews 12)
- Like it was for David, it is often easier for us to identify sin in others than in ourselves. What personal sin are you able to identify in the way you judge or condemn others (besides being judgmental...)?

"Repentance is a grace of God's Spirit whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and visibly reformed."

–Thomas J. Watson, Sr.

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: 1 Sam 17:45

This Week: Psalm 51:17

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (November):

Apostles Church will be a people who experience life-change together. We will seek to become more like Jesus as we experience the transforming grace and power of His Spirit.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for his holiness & righteousness
- Praising God for his justice & mercy
- Confessing our complete depravity
- Confessing our inability to earn forgiveness
- Thanking Jesus for bearing the punishment for our sin
- Thanking God for removing our sin and crediting Jesus' righteousness to us
- Asking God to fill us with His Spirit and increase our desire for holiness and obedience
- Asking God to spare us from the sin we're so often ready to run into

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Darkness and Light* – Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones
- *A Heart Like His* – Beth More (*for women*)
- *David: Man of Prayer, Man of War* – Walter Chantry
- *David: A Man of Passion & Destiny* – Chuck Swindoll
- *After God's Own Heart: The Gospel According to David* – Mark Boda

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

2 Samuel 9:1-13