

## Small Group Discussion Questions

### *Spirit and Truth: Rediscovering Christian Worship*

*These questions are designed to invite group reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.*

#### **Week 5: Have Mercy**

##### Psalm 51

1. Recall a time in which you genuinely hurt, offended or disappointed someone. Did you apologize? If not, do you wish you had? If so, how did you do it?
2. Have you ever hurt or disappointed someone you were really close to? Did your offense change the relationship? If you apologized, what effect did that have on the relationship?
3. Psalm 51 is a well-known prayer of Confession. What was the occasion that led to its writing?
4. What are the three main reasons given in the sermon for *why* confession is necessary?
5. Using the illustration of David's sin, what factors do you think led to David's *denial*? What finally opened David's eyes? Can you think of a similar experience in your own life – in which you were oblivious to or in denial about a sin/offense until it was brought to your attention? What opened your eyes?
6. What were the potential (and, if you know the story, eventual) effects of David's initial sin with Bathsheba? What were the potential risks to David and the world around him if he had not been held accountable? Can you identify any mechanisms of accountability in your own life that keep your sins and their effects from taking on a life of their own?
7. Psalm 51 expresses David's remorse. It also expresses hope. What hope does David articulate in this prayer?
8. Psalm 51 demonstrates *how* to confess our sin. Essentially, confession consists of four components. The first is, Admit the extent of our sin. What phrases from the Psalm capture the extent of David's sin? Do you believe these statements are true for you as well? Can you think of other Bible passages that support David's assertions about our sin?
9. The second component of confession is, Address the One to whom we are accountable. According to Psalm 51, who is that? How does this ultimate accountability shape the way we approach Confession? How might it impact the way we live our lives?
10. The third component is, Accept the costs of our sin. How does this provide balance for the previous component? What words does David use to expression acceptance of the cost of his sin? Which three parties bear the cost of our sins?
11. The fourth component is Adopt the life of the redeemed person. This consists of: attitude; word; deed. Which phrases from the Psalm capture each of these dimensions of the redeemed life? Consider some concrete ways you could apply these to your own life.

*Pray:* Ask God to guide you through your own confession by: helping you honestly recognize your sin and its consequences; reassuring you that you can be reconciled to Him and made right through Jesus Christ; trusting in His ability to restore the world and, ultimately, reverse the effects of all our sin.