

# Confessions

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### DISCUSSION GOAL



Discuss the great mercy of God and what it looks like to appeal to God's character and cleansing power to receive His mercy.

### ICE BREAKER



What three characteristics would your friends use to describe you?

### TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Psalm 51:1-2 ESV

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.*

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



*This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.*

Big Idea: God is the giver of mercy.

Key Question: How do I receive God's mercy?

1. By appealing to the character of God. (v. 1)
2. By appealing to the cleansing power of God. (v. 2)

## DISCUSSION



- Reread the heading information above today's verse. Psalm 51 was a song written as a result of David's wickedness yet sung by all of God's people as a prayer of confession. Why do you think the song was sung by everyone? What do you see as the benefit of group confession?
- The opening line Psalm 51 is, "Have mercy on me, O God." How would you define mercy? Why do you think David starts the Psalm in this way?
- What characteristics of God are listed by David in verse 1? Why does David appeal to God's character when asking for mercy? And what is significant about the two characteristics he mentions? Do you ever appeal to God's character in prayer? If not, why? And what might be the benefit of adding this practice into your prayer life?
- In verse 2, David appeals to God's cleansing power for mercy, recognizing that only God could cleanse him from his sins. How does this apply to our lives? Have someone read 1 John 1:7-9 aloud. What does this passage teach us about God's cleansing power today?
- God's mercy is immeasurable, but it doesn't always feel that way. Have you ever felt that your sin was too great to be forgiven? How did you get over that spiritual hurdle and embrace the promises of God, that he is able to forgive completely?

## LIFE APPLICATION



*God is the giver of mercy, and no sin exists for which his mercy and cleansing power cannot overcome because of the finished work of Christ on the cross. What next step do you need to take as a group, to respond to this week's passage?*

*Put your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.*

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER REQUESTS



---

---

---

---