



## ***Psalm 51- “A Psalm of Confession”***

*June 26th, 2016*

### **OBSERVE & REFLECT**

*(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)*

#### **READ Psalm 51**

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

### **INVESTIGATE & APPLY**

*(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)*

1. What is the overall tone of Psalm 51? What are the central truths being communicated through this Psalm? Take some time to read 2 Samuel 11-12. These chapters give the background and help us understand Psalm 51.
2. What does David seem to be doing in verses 1-2? In verses 3-6?
3. In verses 1-2, David appeals to two attributes of God. What does each of these words (the attributes) mean? Use the cross-references below from other Psalms to help determine the meaning of the two attributes.
  - Lovingkindness: Psalm 69:16, 89:2-3; 106:45
  - Compassion: Psalm 69:16; 103:13-14; 106:46
4. Explain David's point in verse 4. How can he say this after committing adultery and then arranging Uriah's death?
5. In your own words state what David means in verses 5-6. What do these two verses reveal about the nature of people and the nature of God?
6. What verbs does David employ to describe his request in verses 7-12? Attempt to group these verbs into different categories.
7. What would it have meant for God to cast David from His presence or take the Holy Spirit from David (v11)? Read Numbers 11:17; Deuteronomy 34:9; Judges 14:5-6; 1 Samuel 16:14-23 to see the temporary nature of the Holy Spirit's presence with people in the Old Testament.
8. Summarize the final requests and promises in David's appeal to God in verse 13-19.

*“The Psalms provide the language, the aspirations, the energy for the community as it comes together in prayer.”*

**-Eugene Peterson**

### **NEXT STEPS**

- ☀ Are there any unconfessed sins in your life right now that need to be dealt with? How does the Psalm help us search our hearts and find freedom?
- ☀ Do you have a trusted community of believers who can intervene for you during times when you are struggling with sin and forgiveness? If not, what are some steps you can take to cultivate such a community? What does James 5:16 tell us about the importance of confession amongst biblical community?