CONFRONTED BY OUR SINFULNESS
Psalm 51:1-19

SERMON OUTLINE

The Setting (2 Sam. 11:1-12:23)

Acknowledgment, Confession, and Repentance (Ps. 51:3-6, 16-17)

Asking for Forgiveness and Restoration (Ps 51:1-2, 7-15)

Accepting Forgiveness and Restoration (2 Sam 22:21-25)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note to Leader: Please do not feel like you have to cover all these points, but rather feel free to pick and choose as God leads you, and as you feel are best for facilitating discussion and growth in your group.

Icebreaker: When you were a kid, were you ever caught doing something you shouldn’t have done? What happened? How did you respond? How did the one who caught you respond? How did that make you feel?

1. Read or recap 2 Sam. 11:1-12:23. How does this passage cause you to see David? What is your perception of him?

2. As awful as what David did was, do you see yourself in any way in David’s sinfulness? How? How can you relate?

3. How often do you think about sin? Other people’s sin? Your sin? What does God think about our sin? In what ways are we tempted to respond to our own sin when we’re confronted by it?

4. How does our culture respond to “sin” (although it usually doesn’t call it that)? Look up the term “cancel culture” if you’re not familiar with it. Many have described our current culture as a cancel culture. How is sin dealt with in a cancel culture?

5. Read Psalm 51:1-19. What stands out to you most in how David responds to his awful sin?

6. As you read the passage, think about David’s relationship with God. How did he approach God? What did he ask and expect God to do? What did he understand God’s view of himself to be? How might this shape the way you see God in your sinfulness?
7. To confess is “to say the same thing” or “to come into agreement with” someone. How does this help you understand what it means to confess your sins to God? What are you coming into agreement with Him about? Why is this so hard for us? How does it feel after we finally do confess?

8. Read verse 10. What did David mean when he asked God to “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me?” Have you prayed this prayer to God? What might this look like in your own life?

9. Read verse 17. How would you define a “…broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart” as a personal response to our sin? What does this look like in your own life?

10. If we are Christians who have already been forgiven of our sins, why do we still need to acknowledge, confess, repent, and ask for God’s forgiveness and restoration?

11. Read 2 Sam. 22:21-25. Having done something as horrific as David did, how did he respond to God’s forgiveness? How do you think David was able to put his sin behind him and not be defined by it? How can you do this in your own life?

Pray together as a group. Ask God to bring your sins to your attention so that you may acknowledge, confess, repent and come to God for forgiveness and restoration.