

# CONN<sup>3</sup>CT

Small Group Bible Study

## A Study of Psalm 51

March 20, 2011

Charles Spurgeon refers to Psalm 51 as the “Sinner’s Guide.” It is one of seven psalms known as the “penitential psalms” due to their confessional nature. The Psalm was written by King David in response to his affair with Bathsheba. (2 Samuel 11:1-12:24)

Begin as a group or on your own by reading through Psalm 51 in its entirety.  
What are your initial reflections on this Psalm? What speaks to you personally?

### *v. 1-2 Prayer for Individual Restoration*

As you pray these verses, what comes to mind in your own life. What kind of guilt are you carrying on your own? What is it mean for God to show mercy according to Ephesians 2:3-5? Why is v.5 so important?

### *v. 3-6 Confession and Contrition*

Why is it important to recognize the gravity of our sin? 1 John 1:8-10 & Isaiah 59:2-3

Are there sins that you are holding back from confessing to God? Why is it important to bring these to Him in honesty?

### *v. 7-12 Prayer for Restoration*

As you read these verses, what thoughts come to mind as you consider your own life? Can you relate to the psalmist? Read Romans 5:1 & Isaiah 1:18. What is the peace that God offers to sinners through Christ?

### *v. 13-17 Thanksgiving*

How is the psalmist demonstrating thanksgiving in these verses?

How do you demonstrate your thanks to God for His mercy? What is the significance of verse 15 when considering our ability to thank & praise God?

### *v. 18-19 Prayer for National Restoration*

Why is it important to look beyond ourselves in our walk with Christ?

On your own, take time this week to pray through Psalm 51 line by line. Don't rush, but listen closely to what God is teaching you as you pray.

Psalm Structure Headings taken from “The Expositor’s Bible Commentary 5 - Psalms” - Revised Edition -  
Tremper Longman & David E. Garland-General Editors - Zondervan 2008

