



The Week of September 25, 2022

Psalm 42

Conversation Guide

Take-Aways

- **What we should believe:**
 - **About Humanity:** (John 3:16) I believe all people are fallen in sin, but loved by God who has taken the initiative to save humanity from its sinfulness.
- **What we should become:**
 - **Peace:** (Philippians 4:4-7) I enjoy peace with God as I become more confident in God's grace and experience His presence in my life. I enjoy peace with others as engage in biblically healthy relationships with them. I seek to deal rightly with those who have wronged or offended me as I pursue peace with them.
- **How we should behave:**
 - **I am in prayer:** (Philippians 4:6) I regularly pray to God to better know Him and His direction for my life.

Intro Questions

- When was the last time you REALLY messed up?
 - Did someone call you out on your behavior? How did you respond?

Psalm 51

*Be gracious to me, God,
according to your faithful love;
according to your abundant compassion,
blot out my rebellion.
Completely wash away my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I am conscious of my rebellion,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you—you alone—I have sinned
and done this evil in your sight.
So you are right when you pass sentence;
you are blameless when you judge.
Indeed, I was guilty when I was born;
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.*

*Surely you desire integrity in the inner self,
and you teach me wisdom deep within.
Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Turn your face away from my sins
and blot out all my guilt.*

*God, create a clean heart for me
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not banish me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore the joy of your salvation to me,
and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit.
Then I will teach the rebellious your ways,
and sinners will return to you.*

*Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God—
God of my salvation—
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it;
you are not pleased with a burnt offering.
The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit.
You will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God.*

*In your good pleasure, cause Zion to prosper;
build the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will delight in righteous sacrifices,
whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

Read the Psalm

- Have the group read the Psalm 51 silently to themselves.
- Have a member of the group read the Psalm aloud.

Observation

- What type of Psalm is this? Wisdom, Praise, Lament, Thanksgiving, or Royal?
- Who was the author of this Psalm?
- Make a list of the sins that David is confessing in 3-6.
 - 3-
 - 4-
 - 5-
 - 6-
- Make a list of all the things the psalmist is asking from God in 7-12.
 - 7-
 - 12-
- What does David promise to do in verses 13-17?
 - 13-
 - 14-
 - 17-

Interpretation

- When did David write this Psalm? (Check out <https://www.gotquestions.org/David-and-Bathsheba.html>)
- How does knowing the context of this Psalm affect your interpretation of it?
- Do you think David would have been this full of lament if the prophet Nathan hadn't called him out?
- Infant mortality was very high in ancient times. Would he have realized that his child's death was a result of his actions without Nathan's guidance?

Application

- Why is it important to regularly confess our sins to God?
 - Our salvation doesn't depend on it, but our relationship with the Father is broken when we harbor sin in our hearts.

1 John 1:7-1-10

If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Romans 3:22-26

The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, since there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

Next Steps

- Watch Gospel of the Kingdom by Bible Project. <https://youtu.be/xmFPS0f-kzs>
- Join the Celebration Family and read all of the Psalms together! Check out this reading plan in the YouVersion Bible App. <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/27275>
- Watch "How to Read the Psalms" by The Bible Project on RightNow Media- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/182905>
- Create your own plan for daily Bible reading and implement it.
- Looking for more information on how to study the Bible? Check out Living by the Book by Dr. Howard Hendricks on RightNow Media- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/226788>