

## Heart to Heart with the Living God

### Psalm 51

*"Have mercy on me....cleanse me from my sin." Ps. 51:1-2*

**Day 1: Read 2 Samuel 11:1–12:14 to get the back story for Psalm 51.**

1. Summarize what happened in chapter 11 in your own words. Include how David got into trouble and what strategy he employed to get out of it. (Resist the temptation to see David's sin as all that different from your own.)
2. What does David deserve for his sin? (Lev. 20:10; 24:21)
3. How does God confront David?

**Day 2: Read Psalm 51.**

4. Contrast the way David deals with his sin with Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11 with what you see in Psalm 51. What has made the difference?
5. Look at the Psalm phrase by phrase. What burdens is David carrying because of his sin?
6. What is David's only hope as he stands before God with a terrifying awareness of his sin? (📖\* Ps. 130)

What is our only hope? (Eph. 2:1-9; 📖\* Rom. 5:6-8; Col. 1:21-22)


7. What must it have been like for the sinless Son of God to carry the weight of our guilt and pay the penalty for our sin? (Isa. 53:3-12; Mt. 26:36-39; 1 Jn. 2:2) This would be a good time to pause and respond in gratitude and worship.

\* The 📖 symbol identifies verses for further study.

**Day 3: Read Psalm 51.**

8. David defiled Bathsheba and murdered Uriah. Yet what point is he making in verse 4? (2 Sam. 12:9, 13)

How is this instructive as we consider and confess our own sin? (Ps. 32:1-5)

9. What does David understand about the cause of his sins? (v. 5; Ps. 14:2-3; \* Mk. 7:20-23)
10. What is the scope of the work that God does in changing us? (vv. 6, 7, 10, 12; Heb. 9:13-14)

**Day 4: Read Psalm 51.**

11. What three requests in verses 1 and 2 are repeated in verses 7-9? What results does he expect?
12. What evidence do you see of David's passion to have his relationship with God restored? (vv. 10-12)

How are you challenged by David's passion? Pray that God would give you a heart like David's.

**Day 5: Read Psalm 51.**

13. David's sorrow over his sin could have left him in despair; instead what hope does he express in verses 13-15? How is this psalm in part an answer to that hopeful prayer?
14. What kind of sacrifices pleases God? (v. 17) How is this illustrated in Luke 18:9-14?
15. As you reflect on the tragic story behind this Psalm and God's merciful rescue of David, how are your observations comforting, alarming, life-changing, freeing, etc.? In other words, what difference does the study of this psalm make in your day-to-day life?