

A Prayer of Restoration
Psalm 51
Study Questions

Read 2 Samuel 11-12, the account of David and Bathsheba (the context for Psalm 51).

Read Psalm 51, David's prayer of repentance after he was convicted of his sin.

Using four different colors, highlight (or underline) in Psalm 51:

- 1) David's acknowledgement of his sin
- 2) Indications of God's character
- 3) Words that picture God's forgiveness
- 4) David's anticipation of restoration.

Questions for the text:

1. How does David acknowledge his sin? Where does he express repentance?
2. On what basis does David seek forgiveness? What does he say about God and His character?
3. What phrases of hope does David include? What does he say will be the result of his restoration?
4. What progression do you see in the five stanzas?

Questions for you:

1. When have you thought your sin was hidden? Have you ever had your sin exposed publicly? Been convicted privately? What was your response?
2. When your sin becomes evident, what is your approach to God? How do you try to defend or justify yourself? Do you seek forgiveness? Why should God forgive you?
3. How does David's passionate, personal prayer influence your thoughts on sin, forgiveness, and restoration? What do you learn about God's heart from this Psalm?
4. Optional: Write a prayer in your own words, modeled after Psalm 51.