



Tackling The Text

Psalm 51: David's Sin

- There are many different ways that a person might be confronted with sin in their life. Put a check next to each one listed below that you have personally experienced.
 - Confronted by your **conscience** – you know it's wrong and feel guilty as soon as you do it
 - Confronted by your **parents** – they find out and bust you
 - Confronted by your **friends** – a friend comes to you privately
 - Confronted by your **teachers** – something said in class or a sermon makes you feel guilty
 - Confronted by your **study** – a Bible passage you read raises questions about your conduct
 - Confronted by your _____

- When you have these “**confrontation moments**”, how do you usually handle them? Select two from the list below that best describe you. Honesty is critical.
 - I do my best to put the whole thing out of my mind.
 - I feel bad for a while, but then I get over it.
 - I apologize quickly to stay out of trouble, but I usually don't mean it.
 - I make excuses to justify actions I know that are wrong.
 - I argue and defend my actions, even when I know they are wrong.
 - I cover up and deny until I know someone proves they have the goods on me.
 - I truly feel bad about my sins and make some effort to do better, but I usually don't stick with it.
 - I am very open to correct things that are wrong in my life and sincerely work to make necessary changes.
 - Other: _____

- In **II Samuel 12:1-15** King David is confronted with a terrible sin that he has committed. Describe how he handles this situation.

- TEAM PROJECT** David wrote Psalm 51 in the aftermath of this terrible sin. Read through this Psalm with your team and answer the questions below.

Choose three words that you think best describe how David is feeling when he wrote this Psalm.

What is David seeking from God?

Based on what you see in this Psalm, how is David's response to sin different from your own?

5. Two Final Questions

Why is it important to consider how I respond to sin in my life?

What are you determined to do differently because of what we have studied?

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Instructions: First, take questions 1-3 one by one. Have the students answer on their own, and then discuss their answers as a group. Second, divide your group into several teams and have each team complete the team project (#4). When each team is finished, discuss their answers to the three questions. Third, close by throwing the last two questions (#5) to the group.

Questions 1-3 Use these questions as a warm-up exercise to get your students talking about the subject. Push them to be honest and not just give the answers they would be expected to give in Bible class.

With Question #3 be sure to note how David came clean about his sin. He offered no excuses or justifications. He did not argue that God was being unfair to him. He did not blame Bathsheba. He simply acknowledged his sin.

Team Project (4) Give your students 10 minutes to read and discuss Psalm 51, then have them share their responses to the three questions. Here are some points you should be sure to make.

David is clearly overwhelmed with a sense of guilt over the sin he has committed. He feels pressure every day because of what he has done (v. 3). He feels dirty (v. 2). He recognizes that his sin was not only against Uriah, but against God (v. 4). He is grieving and sorrowful (v. 12).

David is seeking God's forgiveness. He wants to feel right again. He wants to feel clean. He wants to be unburdened from this guilt he is carrying.

I fear that at times we lack this sense of grief over our sins that we see in David. We do not sense how our sins have offended God. We do not feel guilty. We do not feel dirty the way he did. We do not feel the need to be forgiven. Instead we try to minimize and justify, sometimes acting offended when anyone dares to point out our failures.

We need to appreciate once more the tragedy of being a sinner. My sin hurts God (Ephesians 4:30). It damages my relationship with Him (Isaiah 59:1-2). It will result in eternal separation (II Thessalonians 1:6-10). It required the sacrificial death of Jesus to provide forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7). Sin is the greatest human tragedy. We need to appreciate that again.

Question 5 Why is it important to consider how I respond to sin in my life?

It is vital that I deal with sin in my life. To do that I must respond in the right way – like David did. Also, when we behave as if sin is no big deal, it is easier to fall back into sin.

What are you determined to do differently because of what we have studied?

I'm going to think more about how serious sin is.

I'm going to learn again to grieve over my sins.

I'm going to respond better when confronted with sin.

I'm really going to strive to rid my life of sin and become the person God wants me to be.