

Introduction

Psalm 51 is one of the famous Psalms, a Psalm of David, written, as the heading tells us, “after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba”. It is a Psalm of the King, confessing his sins to God and pleading the promises of 2 Samuel 7 on his own behalf. Thus there are some statements within the Psalm that only the King can say. But since the King in Israel was meant to be a model believer, the Psalm does assist us in our own confession. In this twofold function the Psalm helps us in our daily discipleship and points us beyond David the fallen King to Jesus the King through whose perfect righteousness forgiveness is made available to all who cry out to God in His Name.



Starting out...

1. How do you feel when you let God down by sinning against Him?

2. What do you do when you are confronted with your own sinfulness?

Read Psalm 51:1-19



Read and Think



1. What does David **not do** when he is confronted by Nathan about his sin?

2. What does he do? (see verses 1-4)

8. Compare Psalm 51:11 and John 1:32-34. How is Jesus greater than David?

9. What does David see himself doing in the light of the forgiveness of God?

10. What do we learn from this passage about forgiveness and a cleansed conscience?
(compare Hebrews 10:19-25)



Apply



1. What key truths have you learnt from this Psalm?

2. In what ways has this Psalm challenged your thinking?



1. In what way has this Psalm challenged or encouraged your heart?



1. What changes do you need to make in the light of this Psalm?

2. How would you use what you have learnt from this Psalm in a REACH 500 conversation?