

- 1 **Psalm 51 is a vivid reminder of how the grace of God can turn our worst failures into heart-felt worship.** After being rebuked by Nathan, David ran to the Lord who had revealed himself as “merciful” and “abounding in steadfast love” (Ps. 51:1, Ex. 34:6). What is the grace of God? Think of your own story and frame it through lens of “the praise of His glorious grace.” (Eph. 1:5-6)

 *God's grace is free to all who receive it, but it cost Him greatly in Christ. Read through Psalm 51 and then trace<sup>1</sup> how amazing the gift of His grace is in the following verses.*

*Only Christ's innocent blood can ultimately erase man's guilt (Heb. 9:14, 22).*

*Only Christ's perfect record of "righteousness" can substitute for man's sin (cf. Ps. 51:14, Heb. 4:15).*


*Only Christ's Spirit can regenerate the human will (Ps 51:12, 19; Titus 3:8).*


*Only Christ's sacrifice is permanently delighted in by God (Ps. 51:16; Heb. 10:5-10).*

*Salvation is only by grace, never in response to our merit or deserving (Ps. 51:18; Titus 3:3-7, Phil. 2:13).*

- 2 **What were some of the emotions that David could have been feeling as he contemplated his sin?** (See Psalms 51:2,3,7,8,10,12 for several descriptors). Talk about the different ways that sin affects the whole person. Explore the following areas: relationships, mental health, emotional health, physical health, and spiritual vitality.

- 3 **Take some time to discuss how true repentance is the best response to the depth of our sinfulness.** What is the foundation for that kind of response? Why can we truly repent--what makes it not just possible but the best thing for us? Consider how God's character and faithfulness supports genuine repentance.

 *According to 2 Corinthians 7:8-11, what is the difference between repentance and remorse?<sup>2</sup>*

 *Think about how much you know of real repentance, even though your sins are doubtless not as grievous as David's. If we don't repent, what are we forgetting about God and ourselves?*

