

## Reflection Questions: Psalm 51:1-4

For the message, "Have Mercy On Me, O God" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 7, 2021

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*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](https://www.mercyhillbcs.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Psalm 51

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

**1** Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

**2** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

**3** For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**4** Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.

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### **QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- What strikes you about the way David described his monumental failing?
- In the study of this passage, the pastor said, "It is only when we confess the horror of what we've done that we are in a position to be stunned by God's grace and mercy."
  - What are your thoughts about this? Does it seem intuitive or counterintuitive to you?
- David has clearly come to the end of himself, and here in this psalm throws himself at God's mercy. How would you tell someone that this is actually the very best place to be?

#### **2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- What comes to your mind when you imagine a group of Jesus' followers embodying the humility of this text? Do think this would be a dour group or a joyful group? Explain your thoughts?

- Check out Romans 2:4, “It is God’s kindness that leads you to repentance.” We usually think it is the other way around. How can we as a fellowship of Jesus followers embody this sense of God’s kindness leading us to always be returning to him?

**3. Let’s think about how this text applies to our city.**

- How might you answer the objection of some people that all this talk about transgressions, iniquities, and sin is just too negative?
- How does this example of David, both in his failure and in his repentance, actually serve as an avenue to talk about God’s stunning and life-giving mercy?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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