

Reflection Questions: Psalm 51:5-9

For the message, "Let Me Hear Joy & Gladness" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 14, 2021

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.

INTRODUCTION

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

Read the Scripture text: Psalm 51:5-9

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward
being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let's get started...

- What initially grabs your attention in this text?

QUESTIONS

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

- Look at verses 5 & 6. How does David's fallen nature contrast with the way God desires David (& us) to be? What does this teach us about human nature?
- What might it mean for God to delight in truth in our inward being? As opposed to _____?
- Look at verses 7-9. Which one of these truths resonates with you the most: the desire to be clean and washed? To hear joy and gladness? For God to hid his face from our sins? (We don't have to choose only one though! We get all three in Christ! But which one of these resonates the most with you, and why?)

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

- What role does the community of faith play in our ability "to hear joy and gladness"?
- What might it look like to become a community of faith that reminds each other of the joy and gladness of God? What are the benefits? What are the risks?

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

- How would this text serve as an encouragement to people in our city who do not know Christ? How might the thought that they could hear joy and gladness from God influence their understanding of both their waywardness and the good news of Jesus?
- How might Christians be better witnesses for Jesus if our lives were marked by the joy and gladness of God?

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....

- _____
- _____
- _____