

*Gospel*  
**DNA**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome to community group! We believe that people experience and grow in their faith when they get to spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also hearing from other Christians. That's what we're hoping for tonight. As we get started, here are some things happening in the broader life of the church:*

- **10 Year Celebration | October 4th, 6-8p**

Join us for our 10th birthday party at 20th Century Theater in Oakley! Tickets are \$20/person and include dinner and two drink tickets. You can purchase your tickets through the Church Center App, available on both iOS and Android. The registration deadline is Friday, September 26th! This event is for 12 years old and up. Childcare is *not* provided. If the cost is an obstacle to participating contact Abby Murrish and she'll make sure we get you there.

- **Women's Retreat | November 1st & 2nd**

Registration is open for our annual Women's Retreat. It'll be a time of worship, learning, prayer, and fellowship! You can come for the whole time, just Friday night, just Saturday, both, you can spend the night, or not. In any case, we hope all the women of New City will be able to join us! You can register via the Church Center App. If the cost is an obstacle let one of the church staff know and we'll make sure we get you there regardless.

- **Back2Back Haiti | February 29th-March 7th**

We are taking a group to Haiti with Back 2 Back this winter. If you'd like to join in talk with Pastor Ryan or Pastor Brian.

# What Has Gone Wrong?

(Psalm 51)

>> *Open your group with a prayer* >>

>>SAY>> *We're trying to get to know each other a bit. So share your **name**, **where you're from**, and **where you live now**, and answer:*

***What's one TV character you identify with? Why?***

## STUDY/DISCUSSION

*This fall we're doing a series together on the nature of the gospel. If the gospel is that God has come to save us ("Salvation belongs to the Lord!," Jonah 2.9), then it's natural to ask, "Why do we need to be saved?" We're going to talk about that tonight as we discuss one of the most famous prayers of confession, Psalm 51.*

### >> READ >> Psalm 51

1. What stood out to you as significant, encouraging, confusing or challenging in this passage?
2. How is this psalm different from some of the apologies that celebrities and politicians put out in our culture? How is it different from your apologies?
3. Let's read through the Prophet Nathan's confrontation with David in 2 Samuel 12:1-15. What particular aspect of this story seems most horrendous to you and why? How does Nathan's parable relate to David's sin?
4. v.1 — What does David point to as a reason for God to have mercy on him? Why is he so confident that God will do what David asks?
5. What are some specific things that David asks of the Lord? What do you tend to leave out or forget when you repent?

David asks for mercy and forgiveness (v.1), cleansing (vv. 2, 7), justification (vv. 1, 9, 10), deliverance from evil (v. 14), joy (vv. 8, 12, 15), restoration of God's love (vv. 6, 11, 12, 17, 18), and inner transformation (vv. 6, 10, 12, 17).

6. v. 5 — "In sin did my mother conceive me." The concept of original sin is a very controversial idea even among some Christians, what evidence do you see in the world that supports or contradicts this idea?
7. David asks God to hide his face from David's sin in verse 9, but then in verse 11 David asks God not to cast him away from God's presence, how does Christ make both of these things possible?

8. God in his mercy loves us as who we are, but he does not leave us as who we are. According to this psalm, what does true transformation require? If you feel inclined to, please share with your group how you have seen God transform you in your life.

## **PRAY**

Take some time and pray together. This can be done together as a whole group, or in smaller groups.

As the year is just beginning you may want to think about how you'd like prayer to go in your groups and plan diligently to start in that way. That is, figure out how sharing and prayer will be a priority in your group. For example, you may set a timer on your phone during the sharing time so that you get to prayer rather than spend all of the time sharing.

Either take notes yourself or have someone else write down all the prayer requests so that you can share them with the group and so that you yourself can be praying for your group members.

# Leaders' Notes

(from the Gospel Transformation Study Bible)

**Ps. 51** That David's personal confession of adultery and murder could be turned into a divinely inspired congregational hymn proves that "whoever comes" to Christ will never be "cast out" (John 6:37). After Nathan's rebuke, David went straight to the Lord, who had revealed himself as "merciful" and "abounding in steadfast love" (Ex. 34:6; cf. Ps. 51:1). David's psalm is no proposal for rehabilitation, only a plea for cleansing (Ps. 51:2, 7; Titus 3:5).

There is no self-justification, only affirmation of God's justice (Ps. 51:3–6; cf. 1 John 1:9). David does not blame his upbringing; he was a sinner before he was born (Ps. 51:5; Rom. 3:4). He does not claim mitigating circumstances; these were "sins" and "iniquities" (Ps. 51:9; 1 Cor. 6:9, 10). Only God can qualify a sinner to stand in his presence (Ps. 51:11). As a priest, God cleanses the confessing sinner (vv. 2, 7, 17; Num. 19:6). As a judge, he blots out his guilty record (Ps. 51:9, 14). As the Creator, he remakes his heart (v. 10).

But the gore of the sacrificial system hinted to David that supplying these needed graces would cost God personally (vv. 1, 4, 9, 12, 14). Only Christ's innocent blood could ultimately erase human guilt (Heb. 9:14, 22). Only Christ's perfect record of "righteousness" can substitute for iniquities (cf. Ps. 51:14). And only Christ's Spirit can regenerate wills (vv. 12, 19; Titus 3:8). Christ's is the only sacrifice God has permanently delighted in (Ps. 51:16; Heb. 10:5–10). Salvation is a gift granted by God's "good pleasure," never in response to merit or desert (Ps. 51:18; Phil. 2:13). Joyful obedience—never pride—is the response to grace (Ps. 51:12, 15).