

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of December 16, 2018

This Week's Focus: Genuine gospel-centered repentance consists of turning from sin by trusting in Jesus Christ's all-sufficient, substitutionary atoning work and results in our spiritual cleansing and eternal joy.

This Week's Text: Psalm 51

"Our hope is in Christ's righteousness, not our own, so it is not as traumatic to admit our weaknesses and lapses. Whereas in religion we repent as little as possible – but the more we feel accepted and loved in the gospel, the more and more often we will be repenting. Although there is some bitterness in any repentance, in the gospel there is ultimately a sweetness. The more we see our own flaws and sins, the more precious, electrifying, and amazing God's grace appears to us." **Dr. Timothy Keller**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text? What have you learned more clearly about yourself, God, and the mission of God?
- What was the giant that defeated David in chapter 11? What was Nathan's method of confrontation, and how did David respond? Discuss how God's rebuke and discipline is an extension of his love and grace.
- How does David begin his prayer of repentance, and what does it teach us about the nature of God (verse 1)? Have you experienced first-hand God's steadfast love (*hesed*) through Jesus Christ? How does it affect how you confess and repent of your sin?
- How do the words *transgression* and *iniquity* used interchangeably throughout the passage provide a range of meaning for *sin*? What does verse 5 teach us about the extent of sin in our lives (Romans 5:19)?
- Although he has wronged Uriah, Bathsheba, and others, why does David state "against you, you only have I sinned" (verse 4)? What does this indicate about the nature of God? Discuss the difference between religious/moral-centered repentance and genuine gospel-centered repentance.
- What does the hyssop plant have to do with cleansing from sin (Hebrews 9:19-22)? What important event in Israel's history is marked by the sprinkling of blood with hyssop (Exodus 12)?

- Discuss how Jesus' blood (his vicarious, atoning sacrifice on the cross) is sufficient to cleanse from all sin (1 John 1:7-9, 4:10).
- What is the indelible mark of a heart cleansed and restored to right fellowship with God (verse 8, 12)? Is there a lack of joy in your life due to unconfessed sin? How does the gospel-repentance reinvigorate our souls and restore our joy?
- Along with cleansing, what else does David request from God (verses 10-11)?
- What is the link between David's forgiveness and his desire to "teach transgressors your ways" (verse 13)? Whom, in particular, does God want you to demonstrate and declare the good news of his compassionate grace and mercy?
- Discuss how Jesus was "cast away" and sacrificed as the Passover lamb to redeem David and all who repent of sin.