



## Dgroup Discussion Guide for January 28, 2018 TRUE REPENTANCE BRINGS BREAKTHROUGH

### Scripture: Psalm 51

#### DAVID'S TRUE REPENTANCE

Most of us remember David as the young boy who defeated Goliath or the king who committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered Uriah. But we less likely remember him for his repentance over his sin which, in fact is, what led to his memorial in Bible as the man after God's own heart.

David sinned but he returned to God with a contrite heart. His life tells us that through genuine repentance, we can also rebound from a major mistake. This is God's way of restoring us.

Little did David know the consequences of his sin. It led his family to disaster and he found himself stuck with that situation. Sin is like a sugar-coated poison that will surely destroy us sooner or later. More so, sin begets sin. Once it starts, it is hard to stop. Then, it will take us farther away from where we want to go, keep us longer than we want to stay, or cost us more than we are willing to pay.

Because of sin, we all need to repent. But it is not just merely feeling sorry (which is our auto-response when caught in sin). Repentance comes from the Greek word "metanoia" which means a change of mind of heart. It is meant to be a lifestyle for Christians and not just a one-time event. True repentance leads to salvation and brings spiritual breakthroughs.

In Psalm 51, we learn the five principles of true repentance from King David.

#### 1. APPROACH GOD (v 1)

True repentance is approaching God, not running away from Him.

However, we are likely to think that when we sin, God turns His back from us because that is the way of the world where people who make mistakes get rejected. But God's forgiveness is based on grace, not on us, because we will never deserve His forgiveness. So, David sought God's grace on the basis of God's character – His lovingkindness, compassion and greatness.

God wants us to approach Him. Therefore, do not believe the lies of Satan that you are hopeless and that God will never forgive you. Turn to Jesus with true repentance and He will restore you.

#### 2. ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY (v 2)

True repentance is assuming responsibility for our sin and not blaming others.

David took sole responsibility for his sin without any excuses. He humbly admitted for his sin without any excuses. He humbly admitted the gravity of his sin, his sinful nature, his rebellion and disobedience that separated him farther from God.

There are times we do not take sin seriously because we think it is only against people. However, sin is ultimately against God. If we think it is only against the offended, then repentance, should it ever occur at all, will be too shallow. It is important to understand that sin is ultimately a violation of God's love for us.

#### 3. ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS (v 7)

True repentance is accepting God's forgiveness.

David understood that forgiveness comes with blood; this is a foreshadowing of the death of Jesus in the New Testament. David knew that forgiveness is all in God's power. To be clean and pure, he sought God to wash him of his sin.

#### 4. ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES (v 8-9)

True acceptance is accepting the consequences of sin.

God will forgive us of our sin but we must be ready and be willing to accept the consequences. Sooner or later the consequences of sin will catch up on us, and sometimes in an unpleasant surprise.

Understandably we do not want the consequences of sin because it is painful, humbling or even humiliating, but true repentance includes humble acceptance of the consequences. David was miserable and in pain but still he humbly came to God and accepted the consequences of his sin.

#### 5. ASK GOD TO CHANGE OUR HEART (v 10-13)

True repentance is deeply seeking God to create in us a new heart.

David understood that sin separated him from God. He longed for God's presence, for experiencing again intimacy with Him, and for the restoration of the joy of his salvation.

Repentance is the work of God's grace; we cannot do it on our own. True repentance brings breakthroughs including forgiveness, clear conscience, joy of the Lord, intimacy with God, restored relationships and true worship.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART. What can we learn from David as a man after God's own heart based on Psalm 51?
2. BROKEN TO BREAKTHROUGH. Have you been broken that led to a breakthrough? What did you learn from it?
3. REPENT. Have you come to a point of true repentance? How have/ will you come to God with true repentance?
4. SHARING THE GOODNESS OF GOD. What is preventing us from sharing the goodness of God to others?

#### APPLICATION:

**As a family talk about . . .**

##### **The Joy of Your Salvation**

1. What is your source of JOY? Is God your source of joy? How can we enjoy and intentionally pursue the joy of the Lord?
2. What are the sins, respectable sins included (ungodliness, anxiety & frustration, discontentment, unthankfulness, pride, selfishness, lack of self control, impatience & irritability, anger, judgmentalism, envy, jealousy, sins of the tongue, and wordliness) that are still haunting you today? Are you in a cycle of sin – confession – repentance?
3. How can you support each other in order to break free of this cycle?

#### PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.