



Study Guide: Week 1 - Psalm 51

Opening Prayer: O God, our merciful Father, by Your Holy Law do you work in us the true knowledge of our sin, that our heart may be penitent, and our soul humble before You. Blot out our iniquities with the blood of Your Son, cleanse our souls from the dark spots with which we have soiled them, and comfort us with the assurance of Your grace. Build Your Church with us and our children, that Your name may be glorified by many generations. Amen. *

Psalm 51

- 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.
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

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

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

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

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;

19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Additional Scriptures to read:

2 Samuel 12, Jeremiah 24:7, Isaiah 43:25, Acts 15:8-9, Romans 3:4, 8:9. Colossians 2:14

1. Read 2 Samuel 12. What happened to David when God spoke through Nathan? Did David choose to have Nathan come to talk to him?
2. What did Nathan do, or say, to David? Did Nathan tell David how to clean up his act or did he do something else?
3. How do you think David's experience with Nathan relates to getting a clean heart from God?
4. In this Psalm, David says that he sinned against God alone. How is David's breaking of Commandments 5-10 the equivalent of breaking only the First Commandment?

5. If breaking God's First Commandment is the result of having a corrupted heart, what is the result of having a clean heart and a renewed right spirit? And how do we get a clean heart?
6. If God doesn't ask to be paid off or ask for a sinner to make up for their mistakes, what is it that God does with sinners? How is this related to God having mercy on a sinner?
7. As you read all of Psalm 51, where is David's focus and attention? Is it on David's actions or somewhere else? How do you think that relates to you as you read this Psalm today?

PRESENTED BY:



**LUTHER HOUSE
OF STUDY**