

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
**PSALMS-LESSON 12**  
**WEEK OF DECEMBER 8–DECEMBER 12**  
**PSALM 51**  
**SINNER’S GUIDE TO CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE**

**Psalm 51** is a classic passage describing man's repentance and God's gracious and merciful forgiveness of sin. This Psalm was written by David as his confession of the grievous sin he committed with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband to cover his great transgressions. As grievous as David's sin was against Bathsheba, her husband and the nation of Israel, David recognized that his greatest sin was against his heavenly Father.

David recognized he could not cleanse himself. His cleansing from sin could only come from God by His mercy, grace and lovingkindness.

As you read and meditate upon **Psalm 51**, ask God to give you an increasing sensitivity to the sin that so easily entangles us. Ask God to help you to acknowledge your sin and to be quick to confess and repent, relying completely on God's grace and mercy.

**Read 2 Samuel 11 and 12 David and Bathsheba and Genesis 3:1-13 Adam and Eve**

1. When Nathan confronted David of his grievous sin, how did David respond in **2 Samuel 12:13**? When God confronted Adam and Eve of sin in **Genesis 3:1-13**, how did their response differ from David? What does that contrast teach of genuine confession of sin?

**Read Psalm 51:1-9. David's cry for forgiveness, confession of sin and plea for cleansing**

2. What does David ask of God in **verses 1-2**?
3. David appealed to God for forgiveness based on his knowledge of God's character and attributes. To what attributes of God did David appeal for forgiveness? Define each.
4. How does David humbly express his responsibility and ownership of his sin in **verses 1-4**?
5. David, in **verse 4**, repeats what he confessed in **2 Samuel 12:13**: "Against You and You only have I sinned". How does that acknowledgement show the gravity of all sin in the sight of God?

"The evil that he did was not only in the sight of God, but it was also against God"... "Confession must see sin for the pain that it causes-to God and to others". [Commentary on The Psalms](#), Vol. 2, Allen P. Ross, pg. 186

6. In **verse 5**, David confesses that he is a sinner by nature. This is the Doctrine of Original Sin; all of mankind has inherited the corruption of Adam's sin. Why does David make that part of his confession of his sin?

7. What did David pray in **verses 7-9**?

Hyssop was a small plant used as a brush in the Jewish temple ceremonies to sprinkle blood for cleansing. "David understood this and when he asked that God cleanse him with hyssop he meant cleanse me by the blood. Forgive me and regard me as cleansed on the basis of the innocent victim that has died. That is how we must come to God too. We need forgiveness badly but without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. It is only on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God that we may find God's mercy."

Psalms, Vol. 2, James Montgomery Boice, Pg.429

### **Read Psalm 51:10-19. David's Prayer for Renewal and Testimony of Forgiven Sinner**

8. From the following verses, what does David ask of God that only God can accomplish:

- **Verse 10**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **Verse 11**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **Verse 12**

"In the Old Testament (*before Pentecost in Acts 2*), the Spirit came upon theocratic leaders and administrators to enable them to do their work, but it was usually a temporary presence or indwelling... David was praying that he would not be rejected as Saul had been. But for Christians the New Testament teaches that the Spirit enters the lives of believers and permanently indwells them as a seal from God. When Christians sin the Holy Spirit is not taken away from them, but they may be set aside from service or usefulness to God until they are made right." Commentary on The Psalms, Vol. 2, Allen P. Ross, pg. 193

9. **In verses 13-15**, what does David do as an undeserving recipient of the cleansing and forgiveness God provides?

10. From **verses 16-17**, what attitude of the forgiven sinner does God desire?

11. In **verses 18 and 19**, David prays for his city and the nation. Why would he make this request?

12. How have the truths and lessons from **Psalm 51** impacted you? What will you change about the way in which you address your sin?

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:8-10