

Transforming the City One Life at a Time. Know God, Grow Together, Discover Purpose, Make a Difference

CONNECT

When you were a child, have you ever tried to take something without anyone knowing?

WORD

Psalm 51:1-17

"1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise."

THOUGHT

Confession and brokenness will bring restoration and wholeness. David understands this idea. David had sinned against God and quickly realized his sin. He went before God and repented, appealing to God's character and asking for complete repentance along with God's help to bring about better character. This might just be one of the reasons David was considered to be the man after God's own heart.

DISCUSSION

1. What is a contrite heart? Why would David ask for this?
2. Why is it important to remember God's mercy and love when we make mistakes in our walk with him?
3. How does verse 4 put sinning against God into perspective? How would you describe this verse in your own words?
4. David cried out that God would create in him a pure heart and a steadfast spirit (v 10). How does God create a pure heart in us? Do we have a role to play in allowing this to happen?
5. What does repentance do in our lives (Acts 3:19)?
PERSONAL APPLICATION

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PRAYER

• This week, as you spend time in prayer, try starting out with repentance. Seek the Lord's standard on what sin, then seek His free and full forgiveness. Pray asking God to strengthen you from the temptation of sin, giving you the same broken and contrite heart David sought.

This week, reflect on the repentance process and how David brought himself before the Lord. What does this process look like for you? How often should you repent for sin? Spend time with God seeking His love and forgiveness over you.

• Pray with a friend, family member or coworker that they too, would be able to withstand the temptation of sin. That God would be able strengthen them as well.