

DISCUSSION IDEAS  
**HEART CLEANING 101**  
Psalm 51

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Page 1 of 6

**Key Truth in this Psalm:**

**Transformation comes through confession.**

The background on this Psalm is from 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12.

David had not just done something "a little bit wrong". He had committed adultery, lying, and murder against an intensely loyal, committed, disciplined, and faithful serviceman in his special forces!

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: FACING THE TRUTH.**

Look at the last sentence in 2 Sam. 11:27.

(Check the wording in more than one translation.)

Compare this with what David had said to Joab in 2 Sam 11:25.

Here are more literal wordings from the Hebrew:

v. 27b " and the thing which David had done was evil in the eyes of the LORD."

v. 25 " let not this matter be evil in your eyes."

How prone are we to make excuses for our actions?

What about the word "mistake", as in "he just made a mistake".

What does that kind of statement relate to TRUTH?

If we sidestep or water down truth, how does that affect our relationship with Jesus?

How does that affect our relationship with each other?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: TRUSTING GOD'S CHARACTER.**

Now read through Psalm 51.

What do you see here about David's attitude when he wrote this?

What aspects of the character of God do you see here?

How does knowing what God is like affect how we relate to Him?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: ADMISSION OF GUILT.**

How does the idea of earning our way back into God's good graces fit with confession of sin?

What is confession?

What does God want from us after we sin?

Something to keep in mind:

It is a mistaken teaching that the word "repentance" in the New Testament means "to turn away from" or "to turn your back on".

Quite simply, the word "repentance" means "to change your mind".

What kind of "change of mind" results in confession of sin?

DISCUSSION IDEAS  
**HEART CLEANING 101**  
Psalm 51

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Page 2 of 6

What exactly are we acknowledging when we confess?

What is God's response to our confession of guilt?

What is needed for us to have true peace?

What light does 1 John 1:6 to 2:6 shed on this?

♦ **"KNOWING GOD"**

What does Jeremiah 9:24 say about the ability to really know God?

How does Romans 12:2 relate to this?

Look at Phil. 3:10 and Eph.1:16-19.

Is it possible to truly "know" God? What does that look like?

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

**Our Grace Church Elders:** Pray for our elders as they continue to guide Grace Church, always seeking God's will.

**Shelter Valley:** Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Pray for Scott and Leslie Stevens as Scott heads up this ministry.

Pray for the developing local leaders and for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

**Home Groups:** Pray for our home groups.

Pray for the leaders to grow in understanding and skill so that those in each group will truly grow in their walk in the Spirit and in true agape love.

Pray that more folks will take part in a home group and be encouraged as a result.

Pray that each one of us would seek to learn how to use our individual spiritual gift(s) to build up the Body of Christ.

**Gettises:** Pray for the Gettis family in San Jose, Costa Rica.

**Update:** I just realized I forgot to let you all know that we got back safely from our "border run." Thank you for praying! We had a relaxing and enjoyable trip and loved what we saw of Nicaragua. The bus ride was about six hours, with another hour or so for the border crossing, and then another hour or so of travel within Nicaragua. The kids did extremely well. The area we traveled through was green and beautiful. We passed the large lake of Lago Cocibolca, which has an island with two large volcanoes. The lake is famous for the large

**DISCUSSION IDEAS**  
**HEART CLEANING 101**  
Psalm 51

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Page 3 of 6

sharks that live there. We stayed in San Juan del Sur, which is on the Pacific Ocean.

Regarding Nathan's schooling, we had a great meeting with Colegio Monterrey last Friday. It's the middle of the school year here, so we weren't sure how they would feel about allowing Nathan to start in the middle of first grade. But with Cindy's excellent work training him at home, he is ahead of most kids his age - in English, at least. The challenge, of course, will be catching up in Spanish. Anyway, they told us they think it is doable, but that they wanted to have Nathan come to school for two days this week so we could all see how it goes. He did that this past Tuesday and Wednesday, and it went very, very well. Of course, he had his challenges, but overall he enjoyed it enough that he wants to go back. We had been a little concerned about getting home so late (10pm) on Monday night - the night before Nathan's first day of school - but the kids were able to sleep on the bus. This is all a huge answer to prayer - so thank you for praying! So we will probably meet with the school next week to see how things went from their perspective and put together a plan.

I'm continuing to work on a variety of technology issues at ESEPA. One major need is that ESEPA doesn't have a student information system. They have cobbled together various forms and spreadsheets, and I've helped automate some of that, but they really need a comprehensive system that can handle registration, grading, payments, etc. Right now a lot of time is being wasted on manual data entry that could go toward more fruitful ministry. In addition, it is time-consuming and frustrating for staff and students to extract data and prepare reports as needed. I'm looking into various options for student information systems and would appreciate prayers for wisdom.

**Praise:**

- Praise God for continuing growth in relationships here and pray for continued growth in that area. We were blessed to spend some time with Gerardo Chicon and his family this past week - he is the chairman of the board of ESEPA and has been very warm and welcoming toward us. Some of you may have met him - he and his wife visited Grace this past winter.
  
- Praise God for helping us find a great vehicle - a 2003 Honda Odyssey in excellent condition. The transaction was a blessing for

DISCUSSION IDEAS  
**HEART CLEANING 101**  
Psalm 51

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Page 4 of 6

the missionary we bought it from as well - he is a missionary from Costa Rica to Indonesia and had been trying to sell it for a while so he could buy a vehicle for his family to use in Indonesia.

**Please pray for:**

- Please continue to pray for David's studies at ESEPA, which started last week. He is currently taking Greek I, Hebrew I, and the theology of the early church fathers, but is still trying to figure out if he can manage that load along with other responsibilities.
  
- Please continue to pray for David's work at ESEPA - he has a meeting with the seminary leadership and an IT company on Monday about purchasing a new phone system for the seminary, which is badly needed, as the current system drops a lot of incoming calls.
  
- We have a meeting regarding Nathan's new school this week - please continue to pray that our kids would thrive here

**Pearsons:** John and Bobbie's son, John Caleb, is on hospice care with advanced cancer. He is bedridden and on two meds for pain control.

John and Bobbie take a turn in the around the clock family schedule for sitting with him and have recently accompanied him to an oncology visit and to the hospital to receive blood.

Thanks for prayers during this stressful time.

**Barangonan Island:** Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Barangonan Island.

Continue to pray for wisdom and encouragement for the Ingvoidstads and the Binders as they adjust to a changed way of life.

Uphold the island church leaders in prayer. Remember, God wants YOU to be a part of what He is doing.

Pray the Elders in Training: Eddie and Ted, the teacher geeks, Jeremy who has the gift of discernment to protect the flock, and Sid who leads in outreach to other islands. Pray that the evil one will not attack them.

Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear.

DISCUSSION IDEAS  
**HEART CLEANING 101**  
Psalm 51

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Page 5 of 6

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.

**Persecuted Believers:**

Let's not forget to uphold our fellow believers around the world who are experiencing real and intense persecution for following Jesus.

**THIS WEEK:**

1. **Colombia:** A church planter, in danger.

"Xavier Gonzalez," a church planter working in one of Colombia's most dangerous areas, receives frequent death threats. Years ago, he felt God leading him to start a church in one of the country's poorest cities. Although friends warned him that he could be killed, Xavier remained faithful to God's calling. Since planting the church, he has received threats from guerrillas, paramilitary members and street gangs. Xavier and his 130 church members are hated by many in Colombia, but they choose to love their enemies, and their acts of love are making a difference, as many in the community have grown to respect them. Pray for the protection of Xavier and his church so they can continue sharing the gospel and serving others.

2. **Israel:** Persecution from ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel.

Messianic Jews are requesting prayer after a meeting center and some congregants' homes were targeted by ultra-Orthodox Jews recently in south Israel. On May 4, protesters connected with the anti-missionary organization Yad L'Achim created a disturbance outside the meeting center and later continued their protest outside the homes of the center's founder, Albert Knoester, and another member. The protesters broke windows and caused other damage, frightening children who were in the homes during the attacks. Pray for the protection of Messianic Jews in south Israel and for the children who were frightened by the attacks. Pray for justice in this situation and that the protesters will acknowledge their guilt and turn to the Lord.

3. **Afghanistan:** Family of a missionary doctor killed.

As a doctor, Hannelie had been warned that a Taliban attack was expected in Kabul, Afghanistan, that day. But she couldn't have imagined that she would lose her husband and children in the attack, leaving her a childless widow in a matter of moments.

Hannelie, her husband and their two children lived in Afghanistan for

DISCUSSION IDEAS  
**HEART CLEANING 101**  
Psalm 51

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Page 6 of 6

11 years, answering a deeply felt call to serve the Afghan people. Although they understood the dangers of working in a country long terrorized by the Taliban, they chose to be salt and light to those suffering under radical Islam and the violence it inevitably produces.

Dozens of foreign workers were killed by the Taliban while Hannelie and her family served there, and many Afghan believers disappeared or received long prison sentences after conversion to Christianity.

And then came the day when three members of the Taliban attacked Hannelie's home with AK-47s and suicide vests. By the time the attack ended, Hannelie's husband, Werner, and their two teenage children were dead.

Hannelie survived because she wasn't at home during the attack. She was on standby as a medical doctor at a high-level meeting where it was feared the attack would take place. Today a black headstone honors the memory of her family in their native South Africa with these words: THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS IS THE SEED OF THE CHURCH.

The church remains in Afghanistan, growing steadily despite the Taliban's oppressive grip on war-weary Afghans. Please pray for believers there, and ask God to work mightily not only among those who know Him but also among the Taliban and other Muslims.