



## GOALS

- For students to learn what to do when they have sinned.
- For students to learn what they can expect from God when they have sincerely repented of their sin.

## MATERIALS: Group

- Small stick on “googly” eyes (a pair for each student)
- Variety of colored pencils
- Whiteboard and markers
- Scripture cut-outs (provided in this guide; you’ll want to print and cut these before your session)

## MATERIALS: Each Student

- Student journal page
- Scripture sheet, Psalm 51
- A Bible
- A pen

## SESSION INTRO

### Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to give your group an understanding of God’s Word through today’s study. One of God’s most wonderful precepts is His way of cleansing us from sin through confession, repentance, and forgiveness. Your students need to gain a deep understanding of this concept so they can live lives of confession and repentance thus experiencing the freedom of His forgiveness when they choose the wrong path.

### Open

Open your session by sharing in your own words:

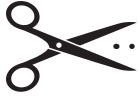
**God is faithful to forgive any sin, even the serious ones, but He is looking for a sincere, repentant heart. Earlier in this study we learned that David was a man after God’s own heart. Even with a heart that loved God, David messed up, big time! The key to David’s forgiveness was having a heart of confession and repentance. A truly repentant heart is the key to unlocking God’s grace and forgiveness. Repentance goes much deeper than simply saying, “I’m sorry I got caught.”**

## CROSS-CHECKING

To begin the lesson, take your students on a fact-finding mission to discover some background on the author of Psalm 51, David. Listed on the next page are several Scripture passages. Print this page and cut it so that each Scripture reference appears on an individual slip of paper. Then distribute a slip to each student. If you have a large group, you should have several students look up the same passage so that everyone has a passage to look up. As they are reading, have students take notes of what they learn about David on their student worksheet.



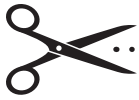
.....  
**1 Samuel 16:1 and 10-12**  
**(Notice David's background and appearance.)**



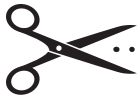
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**1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-33, and 45-50**  
**(Notice David's personality and actions.)**



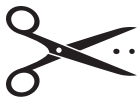
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**2 Samuel 5:1-4**  
**(Notice when and why David became king and how long he reigned.)**



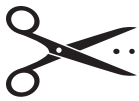
.....  
**2 Samuel 8:14**  
**(Read just the last part of this verse.)**



.....  
**Matthew 1:6-17**  
**(Notice that David was related to a very important person in history.)**



.....  
**Acts 13:20-22**  
**(The "He" speaking in verse 22 is God. Notice what God says about David.)**



.....  
**2 Samuel 11:1-5**  
**(Notice David's action.)**



Once your students have finished reading and recording, work your way through the passages together (in order). Ask your students to tell you what they learned about David. As they share the facts, list them on the board. Stop before discussing the final passage (2 Samuel 11:1-5). Your list on the board should look something like this:

### **David**

*Was the youngest son of Jesse*  
*Tended sheep*  
*Was chosen by God as king over Israel*  
*Was "ruddy" and handsome (good looking)*  
*Volunteered to fight Goliath*  
*Trusted God*  
*Killed the giant*  
*Led Israel on military campaigns (was a warrior)*  
*Became king at age 30*  
*Reigned 40 years*  
*God gave him victory everywhere he went*  
*Was Jesus' great-great-great...? Grandfather*  
*God said David was "a man after His own heart"*  
*He did everything God wanted him to do (was obedient)*

Now on the basis of everything you've written on the board, ask your students:

**How successful was David? How true to God was he?**

**Do you think a guy like that could ever do anything terrible, something really sinful to mess up his life?**

After you have asked this question have your students who looked up 2 Samuel 11:1-5 stand up and read their passage out loud. Once they have finished reading ask them to tell you what to write on the board concerning what they have just learned about David. It will be something like this:

*Committed lusted after and committed adultery with Bathsheba, who became pregnant.*

After they've finished and you have written it on the board, share with your students the "rest of the story." Tell them how David sent Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, to the front lines of battle so that he would be killed. In reality, David committed not only the sin of adultery, but also murder! And he lied to cover up both of those sins! Psalm 51 was written after David was confronted about his sin.

## **DIGGING IN**

Share with your students

**When we make a traumatic, sinful mistake like David's, we tend to see things in a fresh light when we make a turn toward restoration. In Psalm 51 we see three things through David's eyes:**

- 1. How he sees God.**
- 2. How he sees his sin.**
- 3. How he sees his road back to God.**

**We're going to divide up and look at these three things through David's eyes.**

If you haven't already, distribute a pair of "googly" eyes to each student. Then divide your group into three teams and draw attention to their student journal page under Digging In. Point out the verses assigned to each team and have them stick their googly eyes in the margin of the section of verses they are to read. Invite them to work as a team to pull together as much info as they can on their respective view from David.

Invite students to:

1. **Read the passage and underline anything that describes their assigned view from David.**
2. **Work as a team to create a list of things they found in the appropriate space on their journal pages.**

**Contest Option:** You can make this a friendly competition by telling your teams that you have the full list of things (noted below) they should find. The team with the most complete list wins.

After a few minutes, call your teams back to form one group. Ask for each team to share their findings and record these on the board (for time and space simply write a one- or two-word tickler note). Reward the team with the most complete list with a standing ovation from the other teams.

**Team 1: How David sees God**

- merciful (v. 1)
- possessing unfailing love (v. 1)
- great compassion (v. 1)
- able to wash away iniquity (v. 2)
- able to cleanse from sin (v. 2)
- God doesn't delight in sacrifices (v. 16)
- God doesn't take pleasure in burnt offerings (v. 16)
- God will not despise a broken, contrite heart (v. 16)

**Team 2: How David sees his sin**

- He knows his sins (v. 3)
- It is always before him (v. 3)
- Sin is against God (v. 4)
- It is evil (v. 4)
- He was sinful at birth, from the time of conception (v. 5)
- He can still be clean (v. 7)
- He can still be whiter than snow (v.7)

**Team 3: How David sees his way back to God**

- He asks for a pure heart (v. 10)
- He asks for a steadfast spirit within him (v. 10)
- He asks to not be cast from God's presence (v. 11)
- He asks that the Holy Spirit not be taken from him (v. 11)
- He asks for the joy of God's salvation to be restored (v. 12)
- He asks for a willing spirit to sustain him (v. 12)
- He will teach of God's ways, causing sinners to turn to God (v. 13)
- He will sing of God's righteousness (v. 14)

After you've noted the info on the board, process the info as a group with these questions.

**How was David feeling about God? Was he seeing Him as harsh or kind?**

**How do you think David felt about his sin? Do you think David was really sorry about the sin or just sorry he got caught? How do you know?**

*Share that you can tell if someone is truly sorry about their sin (rather than just being sorry they got caught) if they hate that sin. To hate a sin means intending to never do it again. To secretly love that sin means that while you might say you're sorry, you may do it again the first chance you get!*

**How would you describe David's view regarding his way back to God?**

-hopeful?

-hopeless?

-discouraged?

-motivated?

## TAKING IT INWARD

Ask students to share their thoughts about the following question:

**After David prayed this prayer of confession and repentance, do you think he was forgiven? Why or why not?**

Ask students to turn in their Bibles to 1 John 1:9. Discuss the condition (the “if”) in this verse. Then discuss the promise, which is based on our fulfillment of the “if.” You may want to ask your students to mark this important verse in their Bibles.

Share:

**Think about the last time you really messed up. How did you deal with that sin with God. Were you as deeply sorry as David? Did you confess your sin? Did you repent?**

**If repentance is turning around and facing a different direction, what would repentance look like in your particular situation?**

## PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

Now, it’s time for reflection. On your students’ journal pages under “Putting Into Practice” are two scales. Ask them to circle on each scale the description that most closely matches their feelings and actions.

Also on their journal pages is a space for students to write out a brief prayer of confession and repentance. (They may need to use the back of the worksheet for more space.) Give your students a few moments to use this space to clean themselves out before God, much as David did in his psalm.