



## WEEKLY STUDY

### ***Summer in the Psalms - Week 6***

We continue our Summer in the Psalms. Notice how this week's Psalm 51 provides us with language for repentance and confession. That may sound like a downer, but it's authentic and beautiful. Pay attention to what it stirs up in you as you read and pray this week.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for yourself or anyone else you know of who is struggling to be honest before God. Pray that we might have a contrite heart before God.

## DAILY STUDY

### **MONDAY: PSALM 51 (NIV)**

**For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.**

*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;*

*according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.*

<sup>2</sup> *Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.*

<sup>3</sup> *For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.*

<sup>4</sup> *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.*

<sup>5</sup> *Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

<sup>6</sup> *Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.*

<sup>7</sup> *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*

<sup>8</sup> *Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*

<sup>9</sup> *Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.*

<sup>10</sup> *Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

<sup>11</sup> *Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

<sup>12</sup> *Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

<sup>13</sup> *Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you.*

<sup>14</sup> *Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
you who are God my Savior,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.*

<sup>15</sup> *Open my lips, Lord,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.*

<sup>16</sup> *You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*

<sup>17</sup> *My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.*

<sup>18</sup> *May it please you to prosper Zion,  
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.*

<sup>19</sup> *Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,  
in burnt offerings offered whole;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

- Sometimes all we can do is to assume the posture of helplessness. In fact, it's been said that prayer and helplessness are inseparable. David was forced to face his deepest sins (see [2 Samuel 11](#)), and it left him in a low place. We don't typically root for murderers and adulterers, but David draws us in with his contrition. When was the last time you were at the end of your rope? What has helped you to see your utter dependence on God?

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- **Prayer Prompt: You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5.6)**
- *God, apart from you I would be nothing but lost. You have come to find me and have offered redemption to even the worst part of me. Open my lips and I will declare your praise. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: PSALM 51 (NIV)

- Prayer for forgiveness. This prayer of David's has served as an aid for people of all ages. There are various things that can keep us from seeking God's forgiveness. We might believe that our sin isn't on the list of sins that God can forgive. Or we might be hanging on to the fleeting "rewards" of our wrong doing. Our own sense of guilt and shame cause us to stay hidden. What was it that finally brought David out of his darkness? He was called out by another person who cared for him. (See [2 Samuel 12.13](#)) Are there people in your life who you allow to speak the hard truths?

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- **Prayer Prompt: "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die." (2 Samuel 12.13b)**
- *God, Will you expose the places in me that I have hidden even from myself? Cause me to know my own brokenness so that I can fully know your forgiveness. Amen.*

### WEDNESDAY: PSALM 51 (NIV)

- David begins his prayer by naming attributes that he knows to be true about God. He calls upon God's "hesed" unfailing love and mercy. Every turn-around story starts with these truths about who God is. God is a God of undeserved, unending love for his creation. He has shown mercy time and time again. What is God's track record with you? Where have you seen God's love and mercy?

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- **Prayer Prompt: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2.4-5)**
- *Have mercy on me O God, for I am a sinner. I call on your unfailing, unending love for me. In your mercy I find hope for redemption. Amen.*

### THURSDAY: PSALM 51 (NIV)

- In verses 10-12, David stands on his hope for forgiveness and asks for inner renewal. It is one thing to ask forgiveness and move along, but David is asking for a core transformation. "Give me a pure heart...and restore joy in me." Even when we forgive someone else, we find much more pleasure when it leads to transformation in the other person. Our love is not always as unending and unconditional as God's love. But can you imagine what it does to God's own heart when our hearts are changed? Reflect today on God's desire for your heart to become more like his.

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- **Prayer Prompt: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36.26)**
- *O God, give me a new heart. Restore me day by day. I need your Spirit to live in me so that I can live for you. Amen.*

**FRIDAY: PSALM 51 (NIV)**

- In verses 13-17 David makes a vow of praise. David anticipated and pledged what kind of life would flow out of the forgiveness and restoration of heart that God would provide. He would teach others who are lost like he was, and he would declare praise to God with his lips. Have you had this kind of conversation with God? ‘If only you would (free me, forgive me, save me) then I would pour out praise with my redeemed life...” Make this your prayer today and begin to imagine what kind of praise you will lift up to God because his saving work through Jesus Christ.

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- **Prayer Prompt: the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. (Isaiah 61.11b)**
- *Merciful and loving God, like David, I want my life to sound like one big act of praise. You are worthy of my whole heart. Amen.*

**SATURDAY: PSALM 51 (NIV)**

- David ended this prayer-psalm with a plea for Jerusalem. It seems he was beginning to return to his kingly role. While pleading for mercy and promising a life of praise, David was able to return to his purpose--return to his anointing. What is the larger impact that your personal redemption can have? Whose prosperity are you praying for?

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- **Prayer Prompt: Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5.16)**
- *God, as you have forgiven me, may I also forgive others. I pray for my community, my nation, and the whole world. May you delight in the sacrifices of our hearts. Amen.*

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

As a group, commit to reading a Psalm each day throughout the next several months (until October). You may have received a handout at Providence that will help you to keep track. When

you come together as a small group, share with one another the ways in which God is speaking to you through each Psalm.

**This week: Psalms 36-42**

Does this Psalm reflect your words to God?

What is God saying to you through this Psalm?

Is there something you are invited to do in response to this Psalm?

What challenges you about this Psalm?