



## Lab Study Guide Winter 2018

Date: 2.18.18  
Text: Psalm 51

Teacher: Scott Stark  
Any other Text?: 2 Samuel 11 & 12

1. **Read the Text Together** Read the Text for this week out loud with your group.

2. **Make Observations** What stands out? What phrases caught your attention?  
Any repetition, contrasts, comparisons?

3. **Ask Questions** What is confusing or hard to understand? Any details that might be important?  
Ask: who, what, where, when, why, how?

### 4. Background Information

- Psalm 51 is a Psalm of Repentance
- You'll notice that the opening subscript of the psalm says: *A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*
- 2 Samuel 11 & 12 tells the story of David, Bathsheba and the confrontation with Nathan. Here's the summary:
  - As a young man, David had been anointed to be the next King of Israel. As an adult, David became a national hero as a general who won victories and brought freedom to Israel. When he eventually became king, one of the first things he did was bring the Ark of The Covenant into the capital city with a huge celebration of worship to the LORD. David promised that under his leadership, God's Law was going to be at the center of the Kingdom.... But something went wrong along the way.
  - One evening he was taking a walk on his palace roof above the city and he sees a beautiful woman who, though she was covered by veil of night, could not keep herself from David's gaze. He sends someone to find out who she is. The messenger comes back saying: "She's Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah."
  - Now Uriah was one of David's Lieutenants. One of the handful of soldiers that stood with him before he was king. One of the guys who'd been there through thick and thin. Uriah trusted David. And yet, while Uriah was off fighting a battle, David slept with his wife, got her pregnant, had Uriah killed to cover it up, and then took Bathsheba as his own wife.
  - David wrote Psalm 51 after Nathan confronted how about this terrible thing he'd done.

### 5. Application Questions

- Scott described Psalm 51 as "The Road Map to Restoration" and said we have to take this route if we want be fully restored in our relationship God and each other:
  - ACKNOWLEDGE our sin (I did this) v1-2
    - Why do you think it is hard for us to acknowledge our sin?
  - ADMIT we're guilty (It's my fault) v 3-4

- What is the difference between acknowledging we did something and admitting that it was our fault?
- ASK for forgiveness (please forgive me) v7-9
  - Is there anything between you and God that needs forgiveness?
- ACCEPT Jesus salvation (please help me?) v10-12
  - David asks God to do 5 things that only Christ can do for us. What are they?
- ALLOW grace to change us (I am committed to following your ways) v14-17
  - Is there anything that is standing in the way of you embracing the life God has for you by following the ways of Jesus?
- ADOPT God's purpose (I am committed to you) v18
  - The language of Zion may be strange to us. But Jesus expanded the vision of this when he taught us to pray "may your Kingdom come, may you will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." (Matt 6.10)
  - What would it look for God's Kingdom to be fully present here at GVSU? Pray for God to do those things on our campus.

**6. Have everyone answer....**

What verse or phrase from this Psalm was most powerful for you this week?

