

SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

True Confession **Psalm 51**

1. Did you ever get caught with your "hand in the cookie jar" as a child? What happened? Have you ever been caught as an adult? How were the consequences different?
2. What are some ways we try to hide or justify our sin? How have you seen God's mercy when you have owned up to sin?
3. In light of his arrogance, adultery, deception, and murder, how can David possibly approach God?
4. What does Scripture mean when it says God is merciful and gracious? How is this different from God's simply overlooking sin?
5. Is it presumptuous to ask God for mercy when we sin? Why?
6. Since so much sin involves and affects others, what is the meaning of v4? What does this show us about the nature of sin?
7. What does David ask God to do in v7-12? Explain this in your own words.
8. How does Jesus' death help us to understand how God can be both holy and merciful?
9. Read v16-17. What kinds of sacrifices does the Lord desire? What does this look like in your life?
10. Why does David generalize his prayer to include all of Israel in v18-19? What does this say about the nature of sin?
11. Why is it important that we be honest and specific in our confession before God?
12. How has Psalm 51 changed your sensitiveness to sin? Will we ever be able to stop praying this psalm?
13. In addition to being forgiven, what are the results of genuine confession before God?