

## Day One: January 1 This is a day focused on confession.

Order for personal confession, from Psalm 51:

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,

but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness,

and cleanse me from my sin.

*Consider the ways in which you personally may have offended God, both through things done and undone, as well as those things of which you may not even be aware. A careful walk through the 10 Commandments may be helpful. Consider what you might think of about your faith walk as inconvenient - prayer, Bible reading or study, devotional time, etc. Confess these to God.*

*Then consider ways in which we as a church may have offended God. We have made our lives, our relationships—and even the church—in our own image. We confess that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. We gather to lay down our pride, our sin and our agenda and ask the Lord of the church for forgiveness, which He gives freely and with mercy. Conclude with the following...*

**For all this I am sorry and pray for forgiveness. I want to do better.**

...from Psalm 51:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;

In your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and uphold me with your free Spirit.

God is merciful and blesses you. He offers forgiveness for your sins freely, and you are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Blessed are those whose sins have been forgiven, whose evil deeds have been forgotten.

...from Psalm 103:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse,

nor will he harbor his anger forever;

he does not treat us as our sins deserve

or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.