



ministries  
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## Confrontation and Confession

Psalms 51 gives a pattern for true biblical confession, which admits our own guilt and God's justice, makes no excuses, and appeals not to our good works but to God's mercy. <https://www.biblicaltraining.org/confrontation-and-confession-stories-bible>

Learners will:

- Become familiar with the sin of David and his walk towards repentance.
- Learn how to respond when confronted with sin in our lives
- Become acquainted with God's attributes when coming to him after we sin.
- Gain knowledge of what our cry to God may encompass after we have sinned.

## Confrontation and Confession

- Psalms 51 – is an expression of David’s prayer to God after he sinned
- 2 Samuel 11 provides us the story of David’s sin.
  - Instead of going to battle with his men, David stayed home
  - He saw a woman bathing, he sent to inquire about her and found out she was married.
  - After learning who she was, David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him and laid with him, then returned to her house.
  - The woman, Bathsheba found she was pregnant and sent word to David that she was pregnant with his baby.
  - David sent for her husband and tried to get him to go home to lay with his wife. But Uriah was concerned about the Ark and the

people in tents and the army in the open field; he refused to go home.

- David tried getting him drunk thinking he would go home but instead he went out to lie on his bed with the other servants
- David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. He told Joab to send him to the heat of the battle and for the army to withdraw so that he would be killed.

- 2 Samuel 12

### Confrontation

- Nathan the prophet comes to David and tells him a story of the despicable fellow who took the only lamb belonging to a poor man. When Nathan finishes the story, David reacts in anger about the man in the story and pronounces a death sentence upon him.
- The Nathan says to David, You are that man.

### Confession

- David didn't dodge the issue, he replied, I have sinned against the Lord.
  - Sin is breaking God's law.
  - David broke the law of adultery, iniquity (hidden sin), and premeditated murder.
  - Premeditated - think out or plan (an action, especially a crime) beforehand

## **Confrontation and Confession**

- Then Nathan reassured David saying, "The Lord has taken away your sin."

### Psalms 51:1

- True confession holds nothing back
- No excuses like I'm a victim, it's not my fault, sharing the blame or redirecting the blame (like Adam) or pointing out another's fault.
- David's response "I have sinned against the Lord." This is what makes David a man after God's own heart.
- True confession moves the heart of God
- Accepting responsibility: I am completely and totally wrong

- Confession is for you and not the other person.

#### Psalms 51:2

- He agrees with God that sin is horrible and wretched
- No shades of grey for sin, it's black or white (did it or didn't do it)
- David asks for his fellowship with God to be restored
- Wipe his record clean – remove the transgression
- Wash the stain of sin out of my life (iniquity)
- God is capable of forgiving the worst sin.

#### Psalms 51:3-4

- Admit that we don't deserve to be forgiven
- Full admission of guilt
- Know who he sinned against – against God
- Acknowledges that sin is evil
- Sin is done in the sight of God because He is omnipresent
- Whatever the judgment; God is just in his response to our sin

#### Psalms 51:5-6

- Contrast between who David is and what God deserves

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### Psalms 51:7-12

- Plea for forgiveness
- With forgiveness comes restoration
- Confession is not for God's sake, it's for our sake so that we can get rid of bitterness, anger and hatred.
- Refusing to repent causes us to have hardened hearts
- Confession restores the joy of our salvation
- David doesn't just want to be forgiven, he wants to be different; make my spirit willing to obey
- Real forgiveness means change from the inside and flows out.

### Psalms 51:13-17

- Responds to God with a broken and contrite heart.
  - Contrition or contriteness (from the Latin contritus 'ground to pieces', i.e. crushed by guilt) is sincere and complete remorse for sins one has committed. The remorseful person is said to be contrite.
- God forgives completely and totally.
- Although God forgives, our sin may still have consequences.

## [Small Group Activity]

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Stories of the Bible CAYA Series

In what ways did David commit sin?

Do we see our sin like David did or are we full of excuses?

When we sin, why is it against God?

If you have any unconfessed sin, now is a good time to come clean with God and repent.