

Dig Deeper @Home – “Genuine Prayer”
Complement to sermon on 2/24/2019 – “Genuine Penance”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is one of the earliest prayers you can recall being taught as a child?
2. Did you hear your mother or father pray out loud? What was that like?

MEMORIZE – Matthew 6: 9-13

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

READ – Read Psalm 51

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. Review the story behind Psalm 51. (Read -2 Samuel 11,12). Most of us know about David overcoming Goliath in a show of strong faith. Most of us also know about David, during a time of weak resolve, committing adultery with Bathsheba. Fewer of us know that despite David’s major failing, he was spoken of later in the New Testament as an ancestor of Jesus and a “man after God’s own heart.” (Acts 13:22) It’s one of the biggest spiritual turn-arounds of all time, and it had everything to do with Psalm 51.
4. Read Psalm 51:1-2. - As you look at David’s prayer in this Psalm, how does David open his confession time with God? What does He say about God?
5. We hear David’s actual confession and sign of genuine penance in vss. 5-6. What do you see in these verses that indicates how he owns his actions?
6. Read Psalm 51:7-12. Not only does David ask for the sin to be cleaned out, he takes it a few steps further. What does He ask of God in these verses?
7. David gives us some insight as to what to do when we have sinned and caused distance between ourselves and God. Read Psalm 51:15-17. What does David say we should do?

Experiential: The So What

It's a fact of the Christian life: We all sin and make mistakes. As followers of Jesus, all have instances in our journeys when we create distance between ourselves and God. Psalm 51 gives us a way back to closeness with God. So, what do you have going on in your life right now that you know is creating distance between you and God? Write these in a journal or on a separate piece of paper. Take a few moments to pray through Psalm 51 as your own personal confession. You may want to follow David's pattern:

1. Trust God's mercy.
2. Own the sin.
3. Plea for cleansing.
4. Ask for joy and purity to replace your sin.
5. Commit to a humble heart.

More than a record of David's confession, Psalm 51 is a picture of God's view of us when we blow it. He's merciful and compassionate. This, along with His soft heart, is why David later was described as a man after God's own heart. Further, this psalm offers hope for all of us as we allow God to clean us up from our dirt.

Testimony Time

Share about experiences you have had with feeling distant from God and how you were restored to a closer relationship with God.

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Create in me a clean heart - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fVliokreqE>

Spirit of God descend upon my heart – Mennonite Hymnal #217

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Help us to live in a way that is consistent and genuine to our professed faith and belief. For your glory and the good of those around us. Amen