

WEEKLY GROUP GUIDE



Scripture: Psalm 51



Week of: August 25, 2025



Message Title: The Heart of a Believer



Speaker: Mike Greenwood

1. ICEBREAKER (5–10 MINS)

Have you ever tried to fix something yourself only to realize you needed help after all? What happened—and what did you learn from it?

2. READ TOGETHER

Read **Psalm 51** aloud as a group.

Ask: **What do David's words reveal about the posture of his heart before God? How does this psalm help you reflect on your own response to sin, mercy, and restoration?**

3. GROUP DISCUSSION (30–40 MINS)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *You don't need to go through all the questions with the group. Choose the most relevant ones.*

1. Mike opened with the reminder that when we sin, we often try to cover or manage it ourselves. Why is it so difficult to turn to God instead? What makes repentance feel costly?
2. The sermon emphasized that sin is a trap. What are some of the subtle or "respectable" sins that can quietly trap us? How can you grow in awareness of them in your own hearts?
3. David says, "My sin is ever before me" (v.3). Have you ever experienced the weight of unconfessed sin? How did it affect your walk with God or your relationships?
4. In verses 6–12, David not only admits his sin but longs for inner transformation. What phrases in these verses stand out to you most? How do they challenge or encourage your own prayers for heart renewal?

5. The sermon reminded us that only God can change the heart. How does that truth shape how we view our own growth, how we help others follow Jesus, and how we share the gospel with those who don't yet believe?
6. David prays, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (v.10). What does this kind of renewal look like in everyday life? What signs show that God is softening and shaping your heart?
7. Verse 17 says, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." What does a broken and contrite heart look like practically in your life this week?
8. Mike shared that God's forgiveness leads not only to cleansing but to mission—to teach others and declare His praise (vv.13–15). How has God used your story of forgiveness to impact someone else?
9. Bethel's mission is to *Proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God*. How does Psalm 51 show us what true spiritual maturity looks like? How might a lifestyle of repentance and restored joy in Christ help us fulfill that mission together?
10. Our core values include *Bible knowledge, worship, fellowship, prayer, evangelism, service, giving, and missions*. Psalm 51 shows how a forgiven heart becomes a worshiping and witnessing heart (vv.14–15). Which of these values do you sense God prompting you to grow in as a response to His mercy?

4. PRAYER (10–15 MINS)

Encourage honest and specific reflection.

Prompt:

Pray for a heart that grieves over sin and turns to God quickly. Ask for joy in God's forgiveness and boldness to tell others about His mercy. Pray for freedom from guilt and for fresh confidence in God's restoring grace.