

DAVID'S PLAYLIST

A STUDY OF THE PSALMS

Can God Clean Up My Heart? [Psalm 51]

Big Idea: The God who convicts us of sin is the same God who washes us clean and restores us to Himself.

A. The Cry for Mercy [Psalm 51:1-2]

Only God can wash away sin.
[So stop trying to scrub your record]

B. The Confession of Sin [Psalm 51:3-6]

Stop Blaming and Start Confessing
[Making these two choices leads to freedom]

C. The Plea for Cleansing [Psalm 51:7-12]

You can ask God to forgive your past,
but don't forget to ask him to reshape your future.

D. The Fruit of Forgiveness [Psalm 51:13-19]

It's not about your performance — God wants your heart!
Out of forgiveness comes a life of praise and witness

Study Questions and Prayer

[1] Read Psalm 51:1-2. Why is it important to appeal to God's mercy rather than our own goodness when seeking forgiveness? How does this shape the way we pray about our sin?

[2] Read Psalm 51:3-6. David admitted, "Against You, You only, have I sinned." What does this teach us about the true nature of sin? How might this change the way we confess our own sins today?

[3] Read Psalm 51:7-19. David asks God to "create in me a clean heart" and later promises to "teach transgressors Your ways." According to these verses, how does personal restoration lead to public witness?

[4] Pray, asking God to help you stop trying to scrub your record of sin and embrace his power to wash them away, and to share your story of restoration.

[Psalm 51:1-2] Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy [Psalm 106:45] blot out my transgressions. [Isaiah 43:25, 44:22, Colossians 2:13-14] ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, [Malachi 3:3, Acts 22:16] and cleanse me from my sin! [Hebrews 9:14, I John 1:9]

[Isaiah 43:25] I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

[Psalm 51:3-6] For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. [Psalm 32:5, Proverbs 28:13] ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned [2 Samuel 12:13] [The virus of sin lives in its opposition towards God] and done what is evil in your sight, [Luke 15:18,21] so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. [Romans 3:4] ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. [Romans 5:12,19, Ephesians 2:1-4a, Job 14:4] ⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

[2 Samuel 12:13] David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

[Psalm 51:7-12] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; [Exodus 12:22, Leviticus 14:4, Numbers 19:18, Hebrews 9:19] wash me, [Psalm 51:2] and I shall be whiter than snow. [Isaiah 1:18] ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. [Isaiah 38:18] ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, [Jeremiah 16:7] and blot out all my iniquities. [Isaiah 43:25] ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. [Romans 8:9, Ephesians 4:30] ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold [sustain] me with a willing spirit.

[Jeremiah 16:17] For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes.

[Psalm 51:13-19] Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. [Luke 22:32] ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness [the guilt of bloodshed], O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud [Psalm 35:28, 71:8, 15, 24] of your righteousness. [I John 1:9] ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. [Psalm 40:6] ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; ¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altars. [Psalm 4:5, Malachi 3:3]