

# A Pure Heart

## Welcome

The Passion! What scene, either from *The Passion* movie or *The Passion Play*, do you remember the most?

OR

What scene do you wish you could forget?

## Worship

Pastor Dudley talked about how we are often too busy to be still and know God. Take 10 minutes before you jump into the Word, to just be silent and reflect on all that God has done in your life or read a favorite scripture or pray, etc. Just be silent before God.

## Word

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In 2 Samuel 11 David commits adultery with a woman named Bathsheba and has her husband, Uriah, moved to the frontlines of the war so he would die. In chapter 12, the prophet Nathan was sent to David to confront him on what he's done. The Lord speaks through Nathan and David realizes what he's done and says, "I have sinned against the Lord." Psalm 51 is the psalm David wrote when he realizes his sin.

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Read Psalm 51:1-19

1. *In 2 Samuel 11 David commits sins of arrogance, adultery, deception and murder.* In light of these sins how does he approach God in Psalm 51?
2. Since all of these sins involved someone else, why would he say to God, "Against you, you only, have I sinned?"
3. *God used Nathan to get David's attention.* What would it take to get your attention if you weren't living in God's will? Why?

### **Break up into smaller groups of 2 or 3.**

4. *In his sermon this weekend, Pastor Dudley talked about brokenness and humility before God.* What are 2 or 3 ways you see David being broken and humble before the Lord?
5. It is when we confess our sins and are broken that we can be restored. Do you feel like there is anything getting in the way of your relationship with God being what it should be? If so, what is it?
6. *James 5:16 says, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."* Spend this time praying for each other.

## Witness

- *Read Psalm 51:10-15 again.* David is asking to be restored in hopes that he can teach sinners God's ways so they may turn back to Him. Do you see your job as a Christian to help restore people to God? Why or Why not?
  - What's one way you can help restore someone back to God this week?
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# Leaders Notes

## Welcome

If they haven't seen either the movie or play, they can go off of what they've read in the Gospel accounts.

## Worship

Silence is hard to do. But, God asks us to do it. God says in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

## Word

1. David approaches God as a guilty man. He recognizes what he's done and approaches God humbly and begging for mercy and forgiveness. Which brings up a good question: how often do we run TO God instead AWAY from God after we recognize our sins?

2. David had the right perspective on sin. He realizes that God is the one we sin against. Ephesians 6:12, says that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil. We don't sin against people, but our sin affects people and God asks us to make it right with them after we are right with Him.

3. It probably depends if we want to get right with God or not. Some one might need to be confronted, while others might need to be shown acceptance. Someone else might need to be given space to think and others counsel from their friends telling them where they went wrong. The point is people are different; David needed Nathan to confront him abruptly.

### **Break up into smaller groups of 2 or 3.**

4. David asks for mercy and compassion recognizing he deserves the opposite; asks to be cleansed from his transgressions, iniquity, and sin; recognizes he's sinned against the Lord 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost. It takes brokenness and humility to do this.

5. Be sensitive yet firm here. Don't skip this question because you think it might make people feel uncomfortable. If you are in groups of 2 or 3 there is no better place to mention something that is holding someone back from getting right with God. That goes for you too leader! You need to be prepared for anything and everything shared. Remember and reinforce that what's shared in the group stays in the group.

6. No matter what was shared you need to pray for each other.

## Witness

2 Corinthians 5:18,19 says that we are given the ministry of reconciliation. The ministry of helping others reconcile (or be restored) to God through Jesus. That's our job. How well are we doing at our job?