

August 23, 2020
After God's Heart | Week 3, Repentance
Group Discussion Questions

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, read [Psalm 51](#) and [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes)

Here are two ice breakers you could use during Social Time [Bag o' Questions](#) or What was the best part of your week and the hardest part?

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes)

If this is your first meeting, there's no need to force an official Check-In. Use this time to review the [Group Agreement](#) and [Group Commitment Card](#).

If your group met and discussed action steps last week, ask them if they completed their action step and what it is teaching them. Last week's question was, *"From whom will we seek approval?"*

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Sinning is when we put our desires before God's. How have you recently put the desires of your heart over the desires of God's heart?

How do you generally respond to your sin?

Read [Romans 3:23](#). We are all imperfect and will mess up. When we do, God still loves us but desires a heart of repentance. What does it mean to have a heart of repentance?

2. King David had imperfections. To name a few, he had sex outside of marriage with Bathsheba, covered up this sinful relationship by using his power, then led others to sin by facilitating the murder of an innocent man. Although David may not appear to be a man after God's own heart, God still referred to him in this way.

It is in our imperfection that we see our need to seek after God's heart. In what ways do you see your need for God?

3. Be encouraged. God has grace for us. He will not abandon us when we sin. We can get back on track. What hurdles can get in the way of getting back on track?

Read [Psalm 51](#). David, an imperfect person, wrote this passage after sinning against God. Below are the actions King David used to get back on track.

- Request Mercy (Psalm 51:1)
- Appeal for Cleansing (Psalm 51:1-2)
- Acknowledge Our Sin (Psalm 51: 3-4)
- Live Without Pretense (Psalm 51:5-6)
- Desire Change (Psalm 51:10-12, 17)

Looking at the list above, in which do you excel and which do you find difficult?

4. God will always help us get back on track, but our response can make a situation better or worse. Going forward, what will your response to sin look like?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Daily time with God.** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - Purchase a [Jesus Calling](#) devotional and read it daily.
 - Devote time daily to using the [Bible Project](#) and the video teaching offered.
- **Pray.** Seek discernment in God's approval by devoting time every morning and night to prayer. If able, get on your knees. A proper position can change the way you pray.
- **Worship music.** There are many songs written about the unconditional acceptance Jesus has for us. Make a playlist and listen to these songs daily.

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship
- 2) To encourage to accomplish their action step
- 3) To pray for in a specific way

Ask them to place the index card on their night stand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____