

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

THE PLAN — III

Isaiah 59:2; Ps. 32; John 1:8-2:2
Pastor Miles McPherson – November 3, 2013



MEMORY VERSE

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Read Isaiah 59:2 What are the consequences of sin?

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS — THE PLAN, PART THREE

One of the primary issues that hinder the Spirit’s work through us is when there is sin in our life. Sin short-circuits the Holy Spirit’s working in and through us, which causes us to be ineffective in the use of our spiritual gifts in his body. When we walk in the flesh, our works are “wood, hay, and straw” (1 Cor 3:12), and when we walk in the Spirit (abide in Christ), we live a fruitful life (John 15:5, Rom 8:6) and our works are “gold, silver, and precious stones” (1 Cor 3:12). Let’s explore God’s Word to see how to live without sin’s negative impact in our lives.

Psalm 32 “David, having experienced divine chastening and forgiveness (possibly for the sin of adultery and murder recorded in 2 Sam. 11), encouraged others to seek the Lord who deals graciously with sinners. If they refuse submission they will endure chastening. This psalm may be a companion to Psalm 51, referring to David’s sin with Bathsheba. At that time David refused for a year to acknowledge his sin. Psalm 51 was his prayer for pardon; Psalm 32 would then follow it, stressing God’s forgiveness and the lesson David learned.”¹

- **Read v3-4** – How does David describe the effect of sin in his life?
- **Read v5** – How did David deal with his sin? What was God’s response?
- **Read v6** - What is David’s counsel to you? What battle are you currently facing that is making you choose to walk in your flesh or the Spirit?

¹ Allen P. Ross, "Psalms" In , in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), Ps 32.



Read 1 John 1:8-2:2 - “confess” (greek: *homologeō*) means to admit or to agree with. When we confess our sin, we are agreeing with God that what we did (thought, or didn’t do) was wrong and that it is an offense against him.

- What does God promise to do when we confess our sin?
- What does it mean to cleanse from all unrighteousness?
- What is the basis for our forgiveness today?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Create a Sins/Confession List

- Begin with prayer, asking God to “Search me... and know my heart” (Psalm 139:23).
- Take a blank piece of paper and list any sins that you are aware of, or that God brings to mind (your sins, not someone else’s!).
- When finished, pray over the listing, admitting each one as sin, and thanking God for forgiveness in Jesus. Then
- Write the words of 1 John 1:9 over the top of the list, symbolically applying the truth of Scripture to your life.
- Finally, destroy the list, just as God removes our sin from us and remembers them no more!

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit... Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! (Ps 32:1-2, 11)

Notes:

