LESSON 18 - Prayer of David: The Prayer of True Repentance

WORSHIP (15 MINUTES)

Play worship music to create an atmosphere of worship and help everyone prepare their hearts. If the venue is public, invite everyone to share the highs and lows of their week to build connection and fellowship.

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

Welcome guests and first-time visitors warmly. Start with a simple icebreaker question to help everyone get acquainted, create a comfortable atmosphere, and encourage guests to feel included.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Which of the following do you find difficult to do: to forgive or to ask forgiveness? Why?

WORD (30-45 MINUTES)

Main Text: Psalm 51

Intro:
King David is one of the most well-known figures in the Bible. The youngest son of Jesse, David was a shepherd who was anointed by God through the Prophet Samuel to be the future King of Israel. David is also known as the young man who defeated Goliath with his unwavering trust in the Lord. In Acts 13:22, he was described as "a man after God's own heart..."

However, David was not sinless. He committed adultery with Bathsheba and arranged for Uriah to be killed. Despite this, the Lord still favored David because He saw genuine repentance in David and a deep desire to return to Him.

Q: What do you think it means to be after God's own heart?

1. He acknowledged that his sin was ultimately against God - (Psalm 51:3–4a NLT)
When David involved himself with Bathsheba and Uriah, he realized that what he had done was wrong and sinned against the will and authority of God. As a person described as a man after God's heart, he knew he had done the wrong thing, and his actions were displeasing to God. Recognizing his wrongdoing, he intentionally sought and pursued what pleases God.

Q: Have you ever experienced a situation that you later realized you should have handled better?

2. He acknowledged the wrongs he had committed
Psalm 51: 4NLT; John 1:9 NLT; Proverbs 18:13 NLT

David did not deny or hide his wrongdoings. He confessed them and recognized the seriousness and wrongness of his actions, turning to God for forgiveness. In 1 John 1:9, it explains that God forgives and cleanses those who confess their sins to Him, as He is faithful and just.

Q: What do you do when you know you've done something wrong?
Q: Do you recognize your own mistakes, or does someone have to point them out to you?

3. He placed himself at the mercy of God *Psalm 51:1 NLT*
David humbled himself in the presence of the Lord. His position, accomplishments, and riches felt pointless because he knew these things did not truly matter. He appealed to the Lord's mercy, love, and compassion. David showed true repentance by recognizing that no matter what he did, he could not make himself right with God through his own merit. David sought God's forgiveness, trusting in His mercy and unfailing love for His people.

Q: Was there a time in your life when you experienced God's mercy? Would you be able to share this?

4. He did not want to lose God's presence
Psalm 5:10-12 NLT

David didn't want to be apart from God's presence. He deeply valued being with the Lord and feared that his sinful act will break the relationship between him and God. He pleaded to God to restore and renew him by cleaning his heart and spirit.

Q: When something is broken in your life, would you want to restore it, or would you let it go?

Conclusion:
In **Psalm 51:16-17 NLT**, ***"You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God."***

True repentance begins with a broken and repentant heart. God sees our heart when we recognize our sins, decide to turn to Him, and desire to walk in obedience with Him. In 2 Corinthians 7:10, it describes that Godly sorrow leads us away from sin and towards salvation However, worldly sorrow lacks repentance and will lead to spiritual death. God saw David's true repentance in Psalm 51. He was forgiven by God's mercy and grace. He was then blessed by God throughout his life and made him one of the greatest king of Israel but most of all, through his lineage came Jesus, son of God.

Q: How can you apply true repentance in your life this week?

WORK (15 MINUTES)

Application
1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.
2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.

What is your take-away from this lesson? Closing Prayer