

# A Chastened Heart

2 Samuel 12-18

## Lean In

- As a child were you caught doing something wrong? How did you deal with it: Ignored it? Acknowledged it? Apologized? Denied it?

## Look Down

Read 2 Samuel 12-18

- In 12:13 How did David respond to his exposed sin (refer to his dealings with Bathsheba and Uriah in chapter 11), and in 13:34, how did his son Absalom respond to his own sin of killing his brother Amnon (refer to 13:28-29)?
- According to 13:21, what did David do after he heard that his son Amnon raped his half sister Tamar? Read the story in 13:1-14?
  - According to 13:31, what did David do after he heard that his son Absalom killed his sons (Amnon only) Read the story in 13:28-29
  - In the previous 2 stories what was lacking in David's heart towards sin in his own family? See Proverbs 3:11-12;
- Psalm 51 is David's prayer of repentance. Read the psalm and note the nature of true repentance: In the 3<sup>rd</sup> column note false statements or attitudes we may have to justify our sins: (examples are given below)

Verse	Prayer of true repentance	Counterfeit repentance
1a	Have mercy on me O God	O God remember my hard work
1b,9	According to your compassion blot out my sins	Thank you that no matter what I do you always forgive me
2,7	Wash me and cleanse me from my sin... bloodguilt	I will never do this again.
3,14,15		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
10		
16,17		

- What does Psalm 51: 6a, 10, 12b, 17 reveal about the nature and need of a repentant heart and attitude? Why is it important to face up to the root cause of sin in our lives? What does a broken and contrite heart mean in terms of our will, mind, emotions and thoughts?
- What is the role of God's discipline in our growth in holiness? See Hebrews 12: 4-11. Is it worth the hardship (Heb. 12:7;14b)? Why?

## Look Out

- What characteristics do you see in someone close to you who has had a broken and contrite spirit?

## Look In

- Is there an unconfessed or besetting sin in your life? Ask God through the Holy Spirit to search your heart and show you the root of this sin, confess it and repent of it. (John 1:9-10)

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9. Look back at question 4 and see if there is any excuse that makes your confession counterfeit and robs you of peace and an intimate relationship with the Lord. Ask and pray for God's truth to set you free.
  10. If you are going through a time of chastisement and discipline, how are you dealing with it? Are you complaining or submitting to the Lord's will?