

Sermon Title: What If I stumble: 5 Roots of Repentance

Speaker: Chris Odgen

Passage: Psalm 51

Groups Guide: 7/27/25

Belong

Icebreaker: What's something you got caught doing when you were younger that you totally thought you'd get away with? What was the consequence when you got caught?

*Leader's Note: Here is how you can transition this lighthearted icebreaker into meaningful conversation: "It's funny to look back now, but in the moment—being caught felt like the worst. In **Psalm 51**, David's moment of being 'caught' wasn't funny—it was heavy. But what makes this Psalm powerful is how he responds: not with hiding or excuses, but with honest confession and a plea for mercy. Let's take a look."*

Believe

Read **Psalm 51:1-12**

1. As David pleads for mercy, what does this show us about who God is and His character?
2. When we fall short, how can God's character shape the way we respond?
3. David had to be completely honest with himself about his sin before God. Have you ever had a moment where you had to be really honest with yourself about a mistake? How do you think honesty helps us in our relationship with God?

Leader Note: David wrote this Psalm after being confronted by Nathan the prophet for his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11–12). This isn't a shallow apology—it's full of remorse and desire for inner change. Encourage your group to notice how emotionally raw and spiritually honest David is – this is real repentance, not a religious performance.

4. Read **2 Samuel 12:7-14, 20-25**: What does David's response—and God's response to him—teach us about how God treats us when we honestly confess?

Become

Read **Psalm 51:13-19**

Leader Note: Cross-reference verses - James 5:16, 1 Peter 5:6, 2 Corinthians 1:4. These verses reinforce the Psalm's message: James 5:16 affirms that confession brings healing. 1 Peter 5:6 reminds us that humility invites God's grace. 2 Corinthians 1:4 shows that God uses our pain and repentance to help others.

1. Why is it important to share your stumbles and sins with others? What might someone learn about God's grace and love through your story?
2. **Psalm 51:17** says that the sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit and a contrite heart. What do you think that means for how we come to God? How is that different from just following religious rules or doing good deeds?

Challenge

Let's think about how we can live this out in our daily lives.

This week, find one way to be honest before God about something you've been holding back—whether in prayer, journaling, or talking with a trusted friend. And ask God to help you embrace His grace and extend that grace to others through your story.

Closing Prayer

God, thank You for meeting us where we are—broken, honest, and in need of Your mercy. Thank You that You don't reject a broken spirit or contrite heart but instead offer forgiveness, healing, and restoration. Help us to come to You with honesty, trusting in Your grace every day. Give us courage to share our stories, so others might see Your love through our lives. Teach us to walk humbly with You and to live in the freedom You provide. In Jesus' name, Amen.