

Some final reminders thoughts:

1. This Psalm provides a wonderful picture of God's relationship to us:

1. He disciplines us, and brings us back. (v. 3-5)
2. He delivers us, and brings us close. (v. 6-7).
3. He directs us, and brings us along. (v. 8-9).

All of this flows from *His lovingkindness*. This is the *joy of forgiveness* and the *joy of fellowship*! David says this should cause us to rejoice! May our lives be marked by a greater joy this week.

2. We may need to confront someone on occasion. We also need to remember that before we *confront someone else* with their sin (*remove the speck in their eye*), we are to *confront and confess* our own sin (*remove the log from our eye*). Matthew 7:3-5.

3. **Confession** is a *vital, powerful* and *purifying* part of the Christian life. No passage summarizes it better than **1 John 1:9**. Committing it to memory is a good idea. Putting it into practice is even better!

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

—**1 John 1:9**

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

### HIDE IT IN OUR HEARTS: Linger in the Text and Let it Dwell Richly

*"I acknowledged my sin to You,  
And my iniquity I did not hide;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD";  
And You forgave the guilt of my sin."*

—**Psalm 32:5**



## Grateful for the Heavy Hand of God

### The Blessedness of Brokenness

*"I acknowledged my sin to You,  
And my iniquity I did not hide;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD";  
And You forgave the guilt of my sin."*

—**Psalm 32:5**

### HEAR IT: Listen to the Text and Discover the Truth

Psalm 32 is one of seven penitential psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143), a psalm of *contrition, confession* and *repentance*. It reminds us of two very important and fundamental realities of the life of faith:

- 1) Sin, in all of its ugliness and consequences, is still part of our present experience (sinless perfectionism in this life is not a biblical doctrine), and
- 2) Sin must be properly dealt with so that we might know the joy of abiding fellowship with God.

While there are many different aspects to and important doctrines pertaining to the believer's battle with sin (*mortification of the flesh, resisting temptation, knowing our Enemy, wearing the armor of God, etc.*), when sin does occur in our life, *confession when confronted* is the starting point for *repentance* and *renewal*, and is powerfully presented in this Psalm.

### READ PSALM 32:

Suggestion: Have 3 different people read the Psalm. One person would read the opening and closing statements (v. 1-2 and v. 10-11) as the Narrator; a second person would read the sections where David is speaking and telling his story (v. 3-7); and the third person would read the verses where God is speaking (v. 8-9).

## HASH IT OUT: Look into the Text and Develop the Truth

The opening statement about joy of forgiveness (The Exclamation) and the closing statement about joy of fellowship (The Exhortation) are significant enough to stand alone. But the story of David's journey to joy is central to the Psalm and is the focus of our discussion.

### THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY:

1. Chapters 11 and 12 of 2 Samuel provide the background to this Psalm as well as Psalm 51. It tells the story of David's sin and Nathan's consequent confronting of David with his sin.

- While it is not necessary to know that background to apply the principles of this Psalm, how does that background (the story of David's lust, adultery, and the consequent deception, murder and cover-up) enrich our understanding of this Psalm?
- Do you remember the approximate time lapse that occurred between David's sin and Nathan's confrontation?
- If you were in Nathan's shoes, tasked with confronting the king with his sin, what emotions might you feel and what questions or reservations might run through your mind?

2. Looking again at verses 3 & 4, discuss some of the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual consequences of hidden or unconfessed sin.

"When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away  
Through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer."      Selah

- What have you experienced or observed in your own life or others?
- How severe can the consequences of unconfessed sin be?

c. The consequences that David experienced were not simply "cause and effect" (he sinned so he suffered), but are described as the "hand of God" actively pressing upon him. What is the significance of such an understanding? What does it tell us about God's engagement with His children?

d. Pastor said this morning, "It is not David's sin that mattered most to God it is David that mattered most to God." What did he mean by that and what are the implications for how we think about our relationship to God, even and especially when we sin?

e. Pastor also talked about wrong strategies with sin, and in particular, hiding (denial) and hurling (blaming). In this Psalm, David describes himself as a "hider." What about you? Do you have a preferred or default wrong strategy?

3. The heart of David's story is verse 5. Here he moves from concealment to confession.

*"I acknowledged my sin to You,  
And my iniquity I did not hide;  
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD';  
And You forgave the guilt of my sin."*      Selah

- Why are we so slow at times to make this move? Why is conffrontation sometimes necessary, as it was for David in this instance?
- Look at the definition of confession again,... "to acknowledge one's sin in light of God's holiness and truth. To call sin what God calls it without qualification or rationalization (Leviticus 5:5; Psalm 32:5; 38:18; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9). Confession of sin is the indispensable prelude to forgiveness and is the starting point of true repentance. It can be both personal and public, made to God and, where appropriate, to men and before men."

What strikes you most about this definition? Is there a particular aspect of true confession with which you struggle?

- In verses 8–9, where God speaks, what is the promise God makes and what is the point of the parable He presents to us?