



WHEN YOUR SIN, SHAME OR GUILT MAKE GOD SEEM DISTANT

WEEKLY ACTION STEP

Text the word "First" to 317-350-1996 to join us on the Faith First Journey.

Pray to God and ask for repentance of a specific sin in your life and recommit yourself to Him. Write down your commitment to serve as a daily reminder.

To receive a copy for free, text "BIBLE" to 317-350-1996.

BIG IDEA

Repentance leads to salvation, restoration and joy in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 51:1-17, 1 John 1:8-9 and Romans 3:23, before your small group gathering.

OPENER

How would you describe your relationship with God today?

QUESTIONS

1. In 1 John 1:9 we learn that if we fail to acknowledge our sin, we are really lying to ourselves, to others and to God. What must each of us do to receive the Lord's forgiveness and cleansing? Why is asking for forgiveness from the Lord and those I have sinned against so difficult?
2. Are you more sensitive to sin and brokenness in yourself as a Christian than before you became a believer? Why?
3. In your own words describe the difference between repentance that brings salvation and repentance that restores relationship. What is required for each?
4. Discuss a time in your life when you felt like you couldn't be close to God because of some bad or terrible thing (sin) you had done. What did you do about it?
5. Psalm 51: says, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you." Why do you think it's so difficult to obey God sometimes? What can you do in your life to make it easier?
6. What plans can you put in place this week to keep you from drifting away from God?
7. How do you plan to obey/practice what you have learned from Pastor John's sermon? Write an "I will" statement and share with someone the progress you have made.



TAKEAWAY

- We can't take sin lightly, because God doesn't take sin lightly.
- If you live with open, on-going sin in your life, you will lose your joy.
- Pray to God:
 - Create in me a clean heart
 - Renew a loyal spirit within me
 - Do not banish me from your presence
 - Restore to me the joy of your salvation
 - Make me willing to obey you
- The more you read the Word of God and are surrounded by other believers the more your will and desires will be shaped into what God wants.

REFERENCES

Psalms 103:10-14

Micah 7:19

Isaiah 1:18, 57:15

Romans 3:23, 5:9

Titus 2:12

DIGGING DEEPER

- Jesus finished His work on earth at the cross. Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and 7:23-28 and determine what is Jesus' unfinished work in heaven?
- Read Psalm 51:3. How should the fact that every sin is to be understood as an act of rebellion against God affect our attitude towards sin?
- What did you learn about David from Psalm 51? In what ways are you similar to and different from David? Share.
- Has covering up sin backfired in your life? How have you seen God's mercy when you owned up to your sin?
- Is it enough to confess our sins once? To whom do we confess?