

1. **(Read story then)** Psalm 51 (see also 2 Samuel 12—story of David coming to grips with his great sin with Bathsheba after being confronted by the prophet Nathan—so many consequences of this act—Uriah, etc. Here is the man after God’s own heart—the mighty king of Israel—coming face to face with the undeniable fact of his sin. It was an incredible moment of self-awareness by David. Here is how he reacted—read the Psalm. We should not be surprised here—David doing the right thing—and in so doing leaving us an example of how to do the right thing)
2. **When We Sin**
 - a. Confess it—vs. 1-5 (that is own it and take responsibility for it—“For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me.” Don’t try to shift the blame; spin it; rationalize; make excuses; ply the victim or minimize. God is not fooled and cannot work with any of that. Just come clean like David finally did—confession leads to all kinds of release and restarts. Hiding or denying sin leads to more slavery to it. We are told to confess our sins to each other—James 5:16. David offers an example of why that is a healthy practice)
 - b. Seek Forgiveness—vs. 6-9 (David begins the Psalm by seeking God’s mercy and continues ask for cleansing and washing. And it just so happens that he—and we—serve a God who majors in second chances; who is full of grace and mercy. Don’t allow sin to drive you away from this God through denial or discouragement. Confession opens the door for God to confront our sin and then forgive our sin—so like David let’s take it to him and ask for and receive forgiveness. Don’t hold on to sin and it’s consequences—give it over to God and he will set you free)
 - c. Start afresh—vs. 10-12 (Wonderful language here by David: asking God to create a clean heart within him; to renew and restore; to enable him to replenish the joy of his salvation. Ever been there? God can overcome not just our sin, but our guilt as well—guilt that can rob us of this joy. But our God is the God of the fresh start! It is a recovery process that provide us fresh spiritual energy and focus. As long as we serve sin—this is impossible, but with the blessings of confession and the joy of forgiveness, we certainly can be renewed and rejuvenated through God’s fresh start process!)
 - d. Learn and Grow—vs. 13-15 (Learn from the folly of sin and use those lessons to grow; use them to avoid remaking past mistakes; allow God to use you through this process to bless others struggling also with sin. David wanted to use his experience to teach other sinners of God amazing and renewing ways. God can use our mistakes and weaknesses to his glory if we grow through them and allow him. If we do not learn from them, then we may be doomed to repeat them—let’s learn and grow through the process confession and forgiveness provides us—what a blessing!)
3. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart.” Psalm 51:17 (here is the trigger for all of the renewal and forgiveness that God can offer when we sin. We must be broken over it; we must—like David—have a reckoning of the vile nature of sin and the grief it brings. Without contrition we will never confess; never seek forgiveness; never allow God to renew us. Pride, arrogance, apathy; stubbornness—all are enemies of this process. David as King certainly could have fallen back upon any of them—but when confronted his heart broke—so must ours when we sin. Danny—you are the man. We are all sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God.)