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## Group Guide

# Cedar Homes and Humble Hearts

*May 5, 2024*

**Main Passage: Psalm 51:10-13,16-17**

## Theological Theme

God loves us and wants to restore us when we sin. David recognized the importance of seeking after the joy of his salvation and focusing on what is important to God.

## Introduction

- ❓ What is the craziest thing you've ever done to retrieve something of value that was lost?
- ❓ Why do you think people are willing to go to great lengths in these situations?

## 1. Restoration of Heart (Psalm 51:10-11)

King David experienced the agony of realizing his own sin and how far he could fall away from the Lord. David poured out his heart to the Lord as he acknowledged the great mercy the Lord bestows on those who humble their hearts in repentance. This psalm is familiar and dear to many likely because of the way we can relate to being confronted with our own sinful nature, spiritual failings, and need for restoration.

- ❓ When have you felt like David and needed the Lord to do something in your life only He could do?
- ❓ What is the difference between seeking an improved heart and a completely new one? Why is it necessary that our hearts be new?
- ❓ Application: What has been causing distance your relationship with the Lord? How do you need to address this area and seek God?

## 2. Renewal of Joy (Psalm 51:12-13)

Over a period of living with unconfessed sin, David experienced the misery of a broken relationship with the Lord. He recognized the struggle of spiritual defeat that accompanies separation from the Lord. Think about times when you have been in a similar situation. Although we often cling to our sin and desire to make our own choices, when we choose to live outside the will of God in our own strength, things become dire in a hurry.

- ❓ Where are you tempted to rely on your own power and wisdom over God's?
- ❓ How does our spiritual condition play into our effectiveness in leading others to faith? When have you seen this to be true in your life?
- ❓ Application: How can you use your own influence to point others to a right relationship with the Lord?

### 3. Sacrifices of God (Psalm 51:16-17)

The practice of offering sacrifices would have been foremost in David's mind when reflecting on his own sin and how to be restored. In these verses, he was not taking sacrifice lightly but stated clearly that God's greatest concern is our posture of heart and spirit. In these verses, David made it clear that he was willing to do whatever God desired most. Coming to this point displays true humility and sincerity of heart in submission to God.

- ❓ What often holds us back from doing anything God desires of us? What is intimidating about this?
- ❓ What makes it easier to do the right thing outwardly rather than seeking a sincere spirit and heart?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to seek restoration with God today? Where do you need to display humility and contrition?

### Conclusion

- ❓ Where do you need to confess your sin openly before God with a humble and contrite heart?
- ❓ How can we as a group encourage and support one another in approaching God in this way on an ongoing basis?
- ❓ How does openness about our sin give us opportunity for gospel conversations with others?