

**Amplifying Darkness**  
**4 When We Fall: Cleaning up the Mess**  
**Psalm 51**  
**May 5**

**God Holds All the Cards**

1. David, whom God called a man after God's own heart, acknowledged his own guilt and the seriousness of his sin in Psalm 51. Why is it important for us to take responsibility for our actions in the same way?
2. Why do you think David emphasizes God's mercy and steadfast love in his prayer?
3. David acknowledges his own guilt and the seriousness of his sin in Psalm 51. Why is it important for us to take responsibility for our actions in the same way? Compare David's response in Psalm 51 with Proverbs 28:13.

**Confess, Mourn, and Repent**

4. Reflecting on David's plea to "create in me a clean heart," (Psalm 51:10) discuss what it means to cultivate a heart that aligns with God's will?
5. Discuss how David became an example of Isaiah 5:20 and how his prayer in Psalm 51 acknowledges that he needs God to help him out of this state.
6. David's prayer includes a desire to be restored to the joy of God's salvation. How does genuine repentance lead to restored joy in our relationship with God?

**Strive for Faithfulness not a Quick Fix**

7. Why did David emphasize the importance of a broken and contrite heart in Psalm 51:17? How does a broken and contrite heart keep us from looking for a quick fix and lead us to fulfill 1 John 1:8-9?
8. Discuss why David focuses on the fruit of a righteous life as evidence of true repentance in Psalm 51:13-19.
9. What practical steps can individuals take to cultivate a heart of repentance and humility in their daily lives?