

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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 <p>How to make <b>Great decisions</b> teaching series</p>	Handout: 11/24/19 Study Date: 12/01/19
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### What To Do When You Make A Bad Decision

Often we treat repentance as a statement—an “I’m sorry, please forgive me” that checks a box and (hopefully) alleviates our guilt. But if we look closely at Psalm 51, we see that repentance is a turning away from sin and a turning toward God—a process that doesn’t merely alleviate guilt but cultivates deep joy.

So how do we grow in a joy-giving habit of repentance? Here are eight steps.

**Define the sin.** The first step to meaningful confession is understanding what sin is. David uses three different words for it in Psalm 51: “iniquity,” “sin,” and “transgressions” (vv. 1–3). Each term has been deliberately chosen for its unique meaning. “Transgression” is rebellion against God’s authority and law, “iniquity” is a distortion of what should be, and “sin” is missing the mark. David also says his sin is deep—there is no minimizing or excusing it.

**Appeal to God’s mercy.** The psalm begins: “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love” (v. 1). Here, David appeals for forgiveness based on what he knows about God’s character: that he is merciful. David knows God is committed to him in a relationship of “unfailing love”—and when we come before God in repentance, we do so because of his covenant with us through Christ.

**Look to Jesus.** David writes, “Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean” (v. 7). He knows hyssop signifies purification with blood (see Ex. 24), and he knows that blood alone can make him clean. What he doesn’t know is exactly how this will be done. But we do. We have the full revelation of Jesus, who “has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Heb. 9:26).

**Be comforted by the Spirit.** Next David prays, “Do not . . . take your Holy Spirit from me” (v. 11). But the fact that David is grieved over his sin is a sign that the Spirit is at work in him. Have you ever been so discouraged by your sin that you’ve wondered, How can God love me? Surely I’m not really a Christian. Take comfort in knowing that the grief you’re experiencing is a sign that you have the Holy Spirit working in you, causing you to hate what God hates.

**Rejoice and proclaim truth.** In verses 12–15, David asks God to make him so joyful about his salvation that he can’t help but proclaim the gospel to others: “Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.” This is important, because so often we do the opposite—we wallow in our sin and draw back from serving others because we think we’re unworthy. But the joy of forgiveness should compel us to share the good news with friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors.

Source: “8 Steps for Real Repentance from Psalm 51” by Catherine Parks

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## KEY VERSE

Psalm 51:10 (NKJV)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: II Samuel 11:1-27**

### Realize That Everyone Makes Mistakes

1. In today's scripture reading David made the mistake of sinning against God and others. What are some other passages of Scripture where our heroes of the faith made mistakes?
2. How do you usually respond when you make a mistake?

**Tuesday: Psalm 51:1; Isaiah 44:22; Micah 7:18-19**

### Remember God's Mercy

3. How has God demonstrated His mercy towards you?
4. When you make a mistake do you tend to run toward God or run away from Him?

**Wednesday: Psalm 51:2-9; Acts 3:19; Isaiah 1:16; I John 1:-7-9**

### Repent Of Your Sin To God

5. What is the importance of repentance in the life of a believer in Jesus?
6. What are some things that you should repent of?

**Thursday: Psalm 51:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; John 14:26**

### Return Completely To The Holy Spirit

7. How can God create a clean heart in you?
8. What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit? How can listening to the Holy Spirit help you make wise decisions?
9. Can you remember the joy you felt when you received salvation? How can God restore the joy of your salvation to you?

**Friday: Psalm 51:13-19; II Timothy 2:20-21; Hebrews 13:15**

### Rejoice In Your Renewed Service For God

10. In today's Psalm 51 reading, what are some things David says he will do in response to a restored relationship with God?
11. How has repentance led to joy in your life?
12. No matter what bad decisions you have made, God loves you and wants a relationship with you. What steps might you need to take to restore your relationship with Him and begin rejoicing in service to Him again?