

## Sermon Discussion – 7 July 2024

Read Psalm 32

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

We all messed up or did crazy things when we were children. What funny story from your childhood could you share about making a mistake?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

The turning point came in David's life when he acknowledged his sin against the Lord (see Psalm 51). He literally made known to God a sin God already knew, but David needed to confess it to experience the true joy of God's forgiveness.

- If God already is fully aware of our sin, why do you think we still have trouble honestly confessing it?
- How does God's grace and forgiveness encourage repentance?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. How do you feel when you hear the word "confession"? What sort of images pop up in your mind when you think about the process of confession to God? If those pictures in your mind are negative, why do you think they are?
2. Read v. 1-2. Discuss the three words David uses for sin: *transgression* (rebellion), *sin* (missing the mark), and *iniquity* (distortion/twisting). How do these different aspects of sin affect our relationship with God?
3. How does viewing God as the ultimate standard change your understanding of sin? Reflect on Romans 3:23. How does this verse emphasize the importance of God's standard in understanding our shortcomings?
4. Read v. 3-4. What physical and emotional effects did David experience when he kept silent about his sin? Have you ever felt like unconfessed sin was weighing you down? Share your experience and how you dealt with it.
5. What are the practical steps involved in confession according to v. 5? Discuss the importance of acknowledging, not covering, and confessing our sins. Why is it important for confession to be personal?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- What barriers might be preventing you from practicing regular confession? How can you create a safe and supportive environment within your group to encourage honest confession and accountability?
- Close the discussion with a prayer, asking God to help each of you embrace the practice of confession and experience His forgiveness and grace.