

July 12th Children's Worship

## **Scripture Lesson: Psalm 51**

*Take turns reading the scripture lesson out loud as a family.*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.
  
- 3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- 5 Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
  
- 6 You desire truth in the inward being;<sup>[a]</sup>  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
  
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right<sup>[b]</sup> spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing<sup>[c]</sup> spirit.
  
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

15 O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

17 The sacrifice acceptable to God[d] is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

19 then you will delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

## **ACTIVITY! Words, words, words**

Attached to this lesson plan you will find a crossword puzzle and a word find. Work on one (or both!)

## **Question Time!**

*Discuss the following questions when you are done with the activities.*

- What do you think about this psalm?
- What do you think the author of this psalm is feeling?
- What do you think they wrote it about?
- How does the author feel about God?
- Does God make the author feel safe? How?
- What are words or images that repeat themselves in the psalm?

## **Reflection Time:**

*(Read out loud)* This psalm is about repentance and confession. Do you know what those words mean? Those words mean being honest about the things you have done that have hurt others or hurt yourself. In worship we have a special time called the call to confession, because it is important for us to speak and give a name to the things that we struggle with or the actions or words we decide to use that hurt others. Psalm 51 is about a particular thing that King David did which hurt others. King David abused his powers as king, and brought about the death of a man named Uriah, and harmed a woman named Bathesheba. When a prophet named Nathan called him out, David felt a lot of shame and sadness. He couldn't change what he had done, but in this psalm he wrote about how he wants God to help him not do hurtful things anymore. There are things we will do in life that will hurt others, but God doesn't want us to hurt others or hurt ourselves. So it is important that we are honest about those things and ask God for help.

## ACTIVITY! Psalm Writing

Psalms are like poems to God, so we are going to write a letter or poem to God. We talked about how we say or do things that hurt others or ourselves. Sometimes we do it by accident, and sometimes we do it on purpose. A lot of the time we need help from God to stop doing or saying things that are hurtful. Draw or write a letter or poem about a time when you need the most help to not hurt others with your actions or your words, and use that drawing or letter to ask God for help.

### Prayer:

*Please pray this in unison or as a repeat-after-me prayer.*

**Loving God, thank you for being with us, beside us, and all around us. Thank you for guiding us and for helping us. Give us the courage to be honest with others, ourselves, and with you, and the strength to ask you for the help we need. In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN.**

# Psalm 51

(The words go any which way – backwards, forwards, up and down!)

V H Q B Q D X E G O V P P A E  
M G T L I C E N L W W E S S K  
J Q Y U L K K L P D O L S G Z  
Z N G Y R Z E R I Y C R E M S  
U A S U S T A I N V Z U L C C  
T E A C H I W Z J C E U E T U  
Y L B S S R M Y O J Y R M C F  
W C I E V B E O G U D N A W I  
V N C R R R S Z U N R I L M G  
G A S H O H I W H T L J B T G  
S C A T V O P Q Y A H F R L J  
G J S S L L S F S Z C A F M A  
W E O W Z Y Z M S J E W E P N  
R I K G K A M Y O H E P F K R  
S O R F I I V V P K N H R P Z

BLAMELESS

CLEAN

DELIVER

HEART

HOLY

HYSSOP

JOY

MERCY

MOUTH

PRAISE

RESTORE

SING

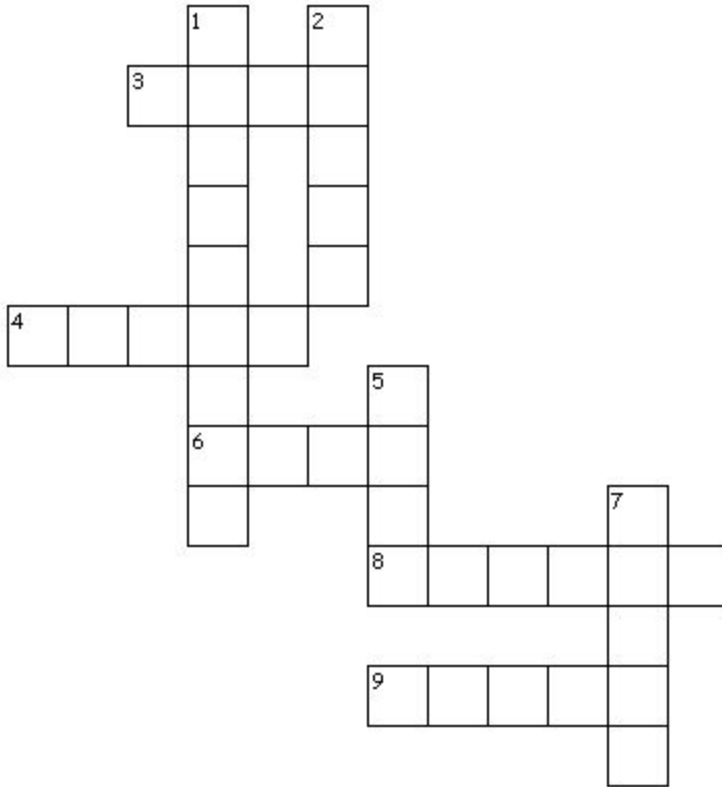
SUSTAIN

TEACH

TRUTH

# Psalm 51

(Use the Bible to help you find the answers.)



## Across

3. Hide your \_\_\_\_\_ from my sins (verse 9)
4. What does God desire from us? (verse 6)
6. Opposite of close. (verse 15)
8. Teach me \_\_\_\_\_ in my secret heart (verse 6)
9. The organ that pumps blood to your body. (verse 10)

## Down

1. O God of my \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 14)
2. Have \_\_\_\_\_ on me, O God! (verse 1)
5. White stuff that comes in the winter? (verse 7)
7. Use it to speak with. (Verse 15)