

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

When you are remorseful, move toward God and receive his grace.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 32, David's Story: 2 Samuel 11-12, 1 John 1:8-10

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. Make sure to let the conversation at the beginning be lighthearted. We all get things wrong, and we want people to feel like it's OK to admit to getting life wrong. Question two has several follow-up questions. Choose the question(s) that are most relevant to your group and the comfort level you enjoy with one another.
2. This might be a helpful definition of common words surrounding remorse: "An apology is an expression of regret: I am sorry. A confession is an admission of fault: I am sorry because I did wrong. I sinned. Apology addresses an audience. Confession implies an inner change ... that will be manifested in outward action." – Susan Wise Bauer, "The Art of the Public"
3. We also tend to try to justify ourselves whenever we've done something wrong. See the following quote: "[Self-justification] allows people to convince themselves that what they did was the best thing they could have done. In fact, come to think of it, it was the right thing. 'There was nothing else I could have done'... Over time, as the self-serving distortions of memory kick in... we come to believe our own lies, little by little." - Elliot Aronson and Carol Tavis, "Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me)"
4. James L Mays writes in his commentary on the Psalms: "Psalm 32 is the second of the seven traditional penitential psalms (6; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143). It is not itself a prayer in which confession of sin is made. It is instead a psalm in which the practice of repentance is taught as a lesson . . . the lesson is based on a case of experience reported in verses 3-5 where the psalmist tells about the torment he suffered when he was silent and forgiveness he received when he acknowledged his sin to the LORD. The Psalm is a prayer that advocates penitence."

The Psalm lifts up the blessedness of the forgiven sinner. There are many beatitudes in the psalms. They form a composite picture of the well-being of the life lived according to the established ways and orders of God. The Psalm points to the crucial importance of the confession of sin. It is the human way to the forgiveness of sin. God's way is to forgive sinners, and we do not acknowledge his grace unless we present ourselves to him as sinners.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES, QUOTATIONS, AND QUESTIONS

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? Visit communitychristian.org/baptism for more info.
4. Who have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.?
B - Begin with Prayer
L - Listen
E - Eat
S - Serve
S - Story