**Thankful for Mercy - 11/18 Discussion Questions**

Psalm 51

***Review***

* *Mercy* - Not getting the punishment you deserve
* *Grace* - Getting blessings you don’t deserve

**4 Steps to a Grateful Life:**

1. Cry Out for Mercy

* Change begins when we stop denying, defending and deflecting responsibility for our sin (vv. 1-2)
* Hope for change is found in God alone (v. 1b)

2. Realize The Consequences of your SIN

* Guilt – Knowing you have DONE something wrong (vv. 1-5)
* Shame – Feeling that you ARE something wrong (vv. 3,8,10)
* Broken Relationship with God (v. 11)

3. ConfessyourSIN

* Admit that your Problem is your Sin (vv. 1-5)
* Account for the Cost of your sinful choices – to yourself and others
* Acknowledge that you have primarily offended God (v. 4)
* Ask God to Forgive you (vv. 16-17; 1 Jn. 1:9)

4. Receive Cleansing in CHRIST

* Jesus replaced your Guilt with His Righteousness (vv. 2,7,9,14a)
* Jesus replaced your Shame with His Glory (vv. 8, 12,18)
* Jesus replaced God’s Wrath upon you with His Love within you (vv. 6,10-11,13,14b-15,19)

***Connect***

1. What are you most thankful for right now?
2. When did you first realize your need for mercy from God?

***Read Psalm 51***

***Discuss***

1. What is the context for this Psalm? What was going on in David’s life?
2. What does David ask of God? What does he admit to God?
3. How does this Psalm serve as a model of confession and repentance for us?
4. How were David’s requests fulfilled in Christ?

***Apply***

1. How does this Psalm encourage you? How does it challenge you?
2. Take some time this week to write your own confession - crying out to the Lord for mercy, confident you will receive it (1 John 1:9).

***Pray***

1. How can we pray for you this week?