



# SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Sermon Title: "CONFESS YOUR SINS TO ONE ANOTHER"

Scripture: James 5:16; 1 John 1:8-10

Date: October 25th, 2015

## STORIES OF FAITH

God is at work every day: What are some Missional opportunities that you engaged in this week? As you begin your time together, invite the group to share 'Evidences of God's Grace' that they experienced or observed this week. This is to help draw our attention to what God is doing in the everyday routines of life.

## OPENING COMMENT

"Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed..." James 5:16. As a follower of Jesus, we are called to confess our sins to one another. Confession is to agree in word with what is true. A confession is when we stop lying to ourselves and to others and we acknowledge the truth. In particular we acknowledge the truth about ourselves and our lack of integrity, our impure motives, our deception etc.. etc..

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."*

*1 John 1:8-10*

## WORKING THROUGH THE PASSAGE

*"If you want to make people uncomfortable, talk about confession"*

Have you ever experienced the uncomfortableness / discomfort of confession? Share why.

If the Bible tells us to / instructs us to confess our sins to one another, why is this not a usual part of our practice?

### **What is Confession**

A confession is when we stop lying to ourselves and to others and we

acknowledge the truth about ourselves.

What comes first - lying to self (self deception) or lying to others?

Which is more dangerous?

What does the Bible say about lies/lying? Where do lies come from?

### **Two Motivations for Confession**

a) Have you ever experienced confession motivated by the Gospel vs confession from selfish motives? What was different about it?

b) Share with each other the promises you find in the Bible that point to freedom in Christ for those who confess their sins.

c) Share a time when you stepped out of denial & into truth. How did it feel? What was the result?

### **Barriers to Confession**

In light of Sunday's message, consider the following barriers to confession: Fear, Spiritual blindness and Pride. Which of these is the greatest barrier to your confessing? Are there other barriers for you?

### **How to Confess**

Is there anything that you have confessed privately to God that you should also have confessed to someone else? (i.e. A person/persons that you have sinned against ...) Is there someone in your group in whom you could confide who can support you & hold you accountable to make the right confession?

### **Benefits of Confession**

Can you (would you have the freedom to) share about a time when you experienced one of the described benefits of confession? (i.e. Better sleep, more authentic life for others to see, more awesome worship, deeper friendships, improved marriage relationship, experience deeper community... )

**Additional study:** *Read Psalm 51* - What was the (negative) impact of unconfessed sin in David's life? What were some of the benefits that David experienced when he "made things right" (confessed)?

## SHARE AND PRAY TOGETHER

Take time to share & pray with one another your “call to action” for the coming week. Maybe there is support needed to help the members of the group to step out in faith through confession. Or maybe someone in your group needs to be encouraged today.

Christmas season is coming, a time when many are open to hearing the Gospel message. What are some missional opportunities that your group can start praying about? What can you do together and/or as individuals to impact the community with the Gospel?