

**The Story**  
**Week 5: After the Fall**  
**June 13th, 2021**

***OPENING PRAYER***

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

***SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES***

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

***"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"***

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

**We are just a week away from summer. What is your favorite thing about this time of year?**

***INTRODUCTION***

So far in our series in **The Story**, we have looked at the upper story components of: God Is, God Creates, God Loves, Humans Sin, God Saves. This week we are going to dive into the 4<sup>th</sup> point of the Upper Story theme- when we mess up, when we are convicted of our need to change, what do we do? We are looking at how do we live in a study titled **After the Fall**. Our scripture narrative for this week is found in Psalm 51.

***THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 51***

Read the passage: Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

***DISCUSSION:***

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

***EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURE:***

- What do you notice in this text with new or fresh eyes?
- What do you struggle with?
- What surprises you?
- What encourages you?

***ENGAGING THE MESSAGE:***

- This week we studied the principle of what to do “After the Fall” - after you’ve messed up, made a moral mistake, sinned. David’s prayer provides a model for our response to God. Let’s discuss the guidelines

**1. ADMIT the exact nature of your wrongs**

- Why must admission (confession) be the first step toward forgiveness?
- Do you find it difficult to admit when you’ve failed? Why or why not?

**2. BELIEVE that God can and will forgive you**

- Sometimes after we fail we have a hard time believing in God’s love and compassion. Why do you think we struggle with this?
- What might help you trust God even when you know you don’t deserve it?

**3. CALL on God to do all He has promised**

- Note that we aren’t asking God to do something He doesn’t already want to do. How does this principle make you feel about God?

***LIVING IT OUT-APPLICATION:***

- **Having received God's forgiveness, what about this process could help you avoid the failure in the future?**

***CLOSING PRAYER:*** Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.