LORD, HAVE MERCY
Psalm 51

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PSALMS
Voices in Prayer

NOTES

CALVIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Psalm 51

Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion*

PSALMS
Voices in Prayer

- "Sin" is an unpopular concept in our culture. Why do you think that is? How would you explain a biblical understanding of sin to someone who is not a Christian?
- Read all of Psalm 51. (If in a group, have readers alternate between odd and even verses.) How would you summarize the theme of this psalm in a simple sentence?
- What words and phrases does the psalmist, David, use to describe his sin? What specifically does he ask God to do about his sin?
- What gives David the confidence to come before a holy God in spite of his sin and to ask God for what he needs? How can this give you courage and encouragement when you pray?
- What are the external results in David's life from the internal work of God's grace and forgiveness? Why are both important and even necessary?
- How does David's prayer of confession here compare and contrast to ways in which you pray? Is there something from Psalm 51 you want to incorporate into your own prayers of confession?
- What is the advantage of making confession a regular spiritual practice instead something done only when we feel guilty? How can you include prayers of confession like Psalm 51 in the rhythm of your days and weeks?
- Of the acts of God listed in Psalm 51, which do you long for most currently? How can your small group or others pray for you as you pray and seek this gift from God?

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.