



Does God Care: To Take Me Back?

Psalm 51:1-13

Discussion Questions for June 28th, 2026

Note: There are quite a few questions here, given the sermon had 5 points. Be sure to pick only the ones most useful for your group and time allotment.

1. (IceBreaker): What are your plans for the 4th of July holiday? Does it feel bigger because of America's 250th celebration? Any good fireworks stories to share?
2. When you hear the sermon title you may already know the right answer because you've learned about God's mercy and grace. Why do you think people often struggle to believe that God welcomes repentant sinners? Could this struggle still happen with long-time Christians?
3. **Point #1: Returning to God Involves...Asking For Mercy.** Rather than ask for mercy immediately, we may be tempted to justify our wrong actions. What are some ways in which people rationalize or downplay their sin? (Extra credit: Who caused David to face his sin with Bathsheba? See 2 Samuel 12:1-15)
4. **Point #2: Returning to God Involves...Acknowledging Your Sin.** Why is honestly naming our sins an important part of repentance? When is it helpful to confess this sin to another Christian friend or pastor?
5. **Point #3: Returning to God Involves...Acknowledging Your Sinful Nature.** We often think of babies as innocent, which is true in a sense, but David says he was "brought forth in iniquity." How would you explain the concept of a sinful nature to someone investigating Christianity?
6. **Point #4: Returning to God Involves...Asking For a New Heart.** A friend once grew tired of diets that allowed him to lose 30 pounds only to gain it back a few months later. He decided to approach the problem with a total "lifestyle change" and kept the weight off for many years. Does that remind you of David asking for

a new heart rather than just focusing on a particular sin? How is it similar? How is it different?

7. **Point #5: Returning to God Involves...Your Joy Complete.** We often settle for too little joy, running after worldly happiness where sin abounds. What are some examples of these counterfeit joys? For each one, try to think of a greater joy that should be pursued instead. (For instance, gossip can be juicy with friends, but greater joy is assuming the best in others and finding ways to speak life into tough situations.)
8. What would it look like for our church to become a community that is honest about sin while confident in God's mercy?
9. Pray together that we follow David's example and return to God, even if it took some time to do it. Pray that our whole church will embrace the idea of being "unfinished people" so it's clear to all that we need God.