

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 19, 2014

---

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. If it's true that everyone makes mistakes, why do you think most of us have a hard time admitting them?

Why do you think it's easier for some people to admit they've made a mistake?

2. What did you think when you heard Chris say, "If the enemy has a place in our house, it's because we have invited him in"?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. When it comes to struggling with sin and life challenges, God never intended for us to face them on our own. His plan has always been for us to be in relationships where we're genuinely known, lovingly supported, and honestly challenged. How do the following passages help you understand what your responsibilities are for helping to create this kind of environment?

Galatians 6:1-2

Matthew 18:15-17

Ephesians 4:25, 29 & 32

Matthew 5:23-24

Can you think of any challenges we might face putting these responsibilities into action?

2. King David had a similar experience with sin as Achan did. He also disobeyed God and then tried to hide his sin (his sin was an affair with a neighbor's wife and a cover-up that included the murder of her husband – see 2 Samuel 11 & 12 for the details). After God used Nathan the prophet to confront David about his sin, David wrote two Psalms about confession and

forgiveness. What do Psalm 32:1-6 and Psalm 51:1-13 teach us about how David felt about his failures, his forgiveness and how God related to him?

When it comes to dealing with your own failure and sin, is there any part of David's prayer that would be helpful for you to use?

According to Proverbs 28:13 and James 5:16, what role might confession play in overcoming the struggle with a long-repeated sin?

At what point do you think a person needs to confess disobedience or a struggle to someone else and not just to God?

3. We heard this weekend about Achan's progression into sin – he saw, he desired, he acted, and then he hid. What similarities and differences do you see in his progression compared to the process of sin described in James 1:13-15?

Achan's steps of progression into sin – see (opportunity), desire, act, hide – are often ones we also follow. Looking at each of the four steps, can you think of anything a person could do at each stage to prevent the process from moving to the next stage?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

1. Are there any temptations you're struggling with – cheating, gossip, over-spending, sexual purity, exaggerating the truth, pride, or other that you'd like prayer for?

2. As you consider any areas you may be struggling with temptation, can you think of any safeguards or strategies you need to implement to help you avoid or resist it?

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 19, 2014

---

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. If it's true that everyone makes mistakes, why do you think most of us have a hard time admitting them?

Why do you think it's easier for some people to admit they've made a mistake?

2. What did you think when you heard Chris say, "If the enemy has a place in our house, it's because we have invited him in"?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. When it comes to struggling with sin and life challenges, God never intended for us to face them on our own. His plan has always been for us to be in relationships where we're genuinely known, lovingly supported, and honestly challenged. How do the following passages help you understand what your responsibilities are for helping to create this kind of environment?

### Galatians 6:1-2

Doing Good to All

1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. [NIV]

### Matthew 18:15-17

Dealing With Sin in the Church

15 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. [NIV]

Ephesians 4:25, 29 & 32

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. [NIV]

Matthew 5:23-24

23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. [NIV]

Can you think of any challenges we might face putting these responsibilities into action?

2. King David had a similar experience with sin as Achan did. He also disobeyed God and then tried to hide his sin (his sin was an affair with a neighbor’s wife and a cover-up that included the murder of her husband – see 2 Samuel 11 & 12 for the details). After God used Nathan the prophet to confront David about his sin, David wrote two Psalms about confession and forgiveness. What do Psalm 32:1-6 and Psalm 51:1-13 teach us about how David felt about his failures, his forgiveness and how God related to him?

### **Psalm 32**

Of David. A maskil.

- 1 Blessed is the one  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.
- 2 Blessed is the one  
whose sin the Lord does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- 3 When I kept silent,  
my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night  
your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you  
and did not cover up my iniquity.  
I said, “I will confess  
my transgressions to the Lord.”  
And you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.
- 6 Therefore let all the faithful pray to you  
while you may be found;  
surely the rising of the mighty waters  
will not reach them. [NIV]

### **Psalm 51:1-13**

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.
- 5 Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.
- 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you. [NIV]

When it comes to dealing with your own failure and sin, is there any part of David's prayer that would be helpful for you to use?

According to Proverbs 28:13 and James 5:16, what role might confession play in overcoming the struggle with a long-repeated sin?

### **Proverbs 28:13**

13 Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper,

but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. [NIV]

**James 5:16**

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. [NIV]

At what point do you think a person needs to confess disobedience or a struggle to someone else and not just to God?

3. We heard this weekend about Achan's progression into sin – he saw, he desired, he acted, and then he hid. What similarities and differences do you see in his progression compared to the process of sin described in James 1:13-15?

**James 1:13-15**

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. [NIV]

Achan's steps of progression into sin – see (opportunity), desire, act, hide – are often ones we also follow. Looking at each of the four steps, can you think of anything a person could do at each stage to prevent the process from moving to the next stage?

**TAKING IT HOME**

1. Are there any temptations you're struggling with – cheating, gossip, over-spending, sexual purity, exaggerating the truth, pride, or other that you'd like prayer for?

2. As you consider any areas you may be struggling with temptation, can you think of any safeguards or strategies you need to implement to help you avoid or resist it?