

PASTOR'S NOTES

When God Comes to Sinners (Psalm 51)

Background: 2 Samuel 11-12

David may have convinced himself that he had hidden his sin from everyone else, but he had hidden nothing from God. Amid the narrative, we find a sobering reality and a fact of hope: *But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. And the LORD sent Nathan to David.* (2 Samuel 11:27, 12:1 ESV)

Through Nathan, God exposed what David tried to conceal. That confrontation was not merely judgment; it was amazing grace. God loved David too much to leave him in unrepentant sin.

David's confession: *David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die"* (2 Samuel 12:13). Psalm 51 is David's prayer that accompanied his confession.

In the narrative, we see a beautiful rhythm of grace. David tried to cover his sin, but God exposed it, not to destroy him, but to save him. Then the Lord covered David's sin with his mercy and grace. That rhythm of grace points us to Jesus Christ. Christ lovingly exposes our sin, not to condemn those who come to him in faith, but to lead us to repentance. By his blood, he cleanses us from our guilt, and by his Spirit, he transforms our lives.

Jesus is the mercy that David desperately needed. (Psalm 51:1-2)

In this Psalm, David makes his confession as he seeks God's mercy and grace, but he does so first by appealing to God's character. He is the God of steadfast love and abundant mercy.

David makes no appeal based on his own merit. He came to understand what all of us must: we offer no resolution for our sin and guilt.

When we approach God in our sin on the basis of his steadfast love and abundant mercy demonstrated through Jesus Christ, we come with confidence rather than despair. At the cross, God's justice and mercy met as Jesus bore the punishment our sins deserved so that God could forgive us without compromising his holiness. Through his death and resurrection, our sins are blotted out, our guilt is cleared, and our hearts are cleansed.

There is no sin too great for his grace and no sinner beyond the reach of his redeeming love.

Jesus provides the cleansing that David longed for. (Psalm 51:3-9)

David's prayer for cleansing is rooted in three profound realities about sin.

1. Sin is a personal offense against God.
2. Sin is part of our nature.
3. God desires truth within our inner being.

Jesus creates the new heart that David prayed for. (Psalm 51:10-12)

David realizes his greatest problem is not simply what he has done; it is what he is. He needs a new heart and a right spirit, so he asks God for both. He's asking God to do a work that only he can do.

David was already a child of God. Yet, his sinfulness had hardened his heart, fractured his fellowship, robbed him of joy, and distorted his desires. So, he asked the Lord to create in him a new heart, renew a right spirit, restore the joy of salvation, and uphold him.

The Christian life includes our conversion and our continual renewal. (See Ephesians 4:23, Romans 12:2, and Colossians 3:10) The Spirit who regenerates us also continually sanctifies us.

Jesus restores David to joyful worship and faithful service. (Psalm 51:13-17)

God's grace always has a purpose beyond removing guilt. Once restored, David proclaims: *Then I will teach transgressors your ways... my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness... O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.* (Psalm 51:13-15)

Those made new in Christ serve him because we have received his grace freely. The joy and peace that sin robbed us of are restored, and our hearts are once again moved to worship, testify, and minister to others.

David also recognizes that God is not impressed by empty religion. Burnt offerings alone could never repair a broken relationship with God. A broken and contrite heart is what delights God. He never pushes back a sinner who comes to him with a repentant heart.

Jesus is the perfect sacrifice David needed. (Psalm 51:18-19)

God rejects sacrifices offered without repentance, but he gladly receives worship that flows from a heart made right with him.

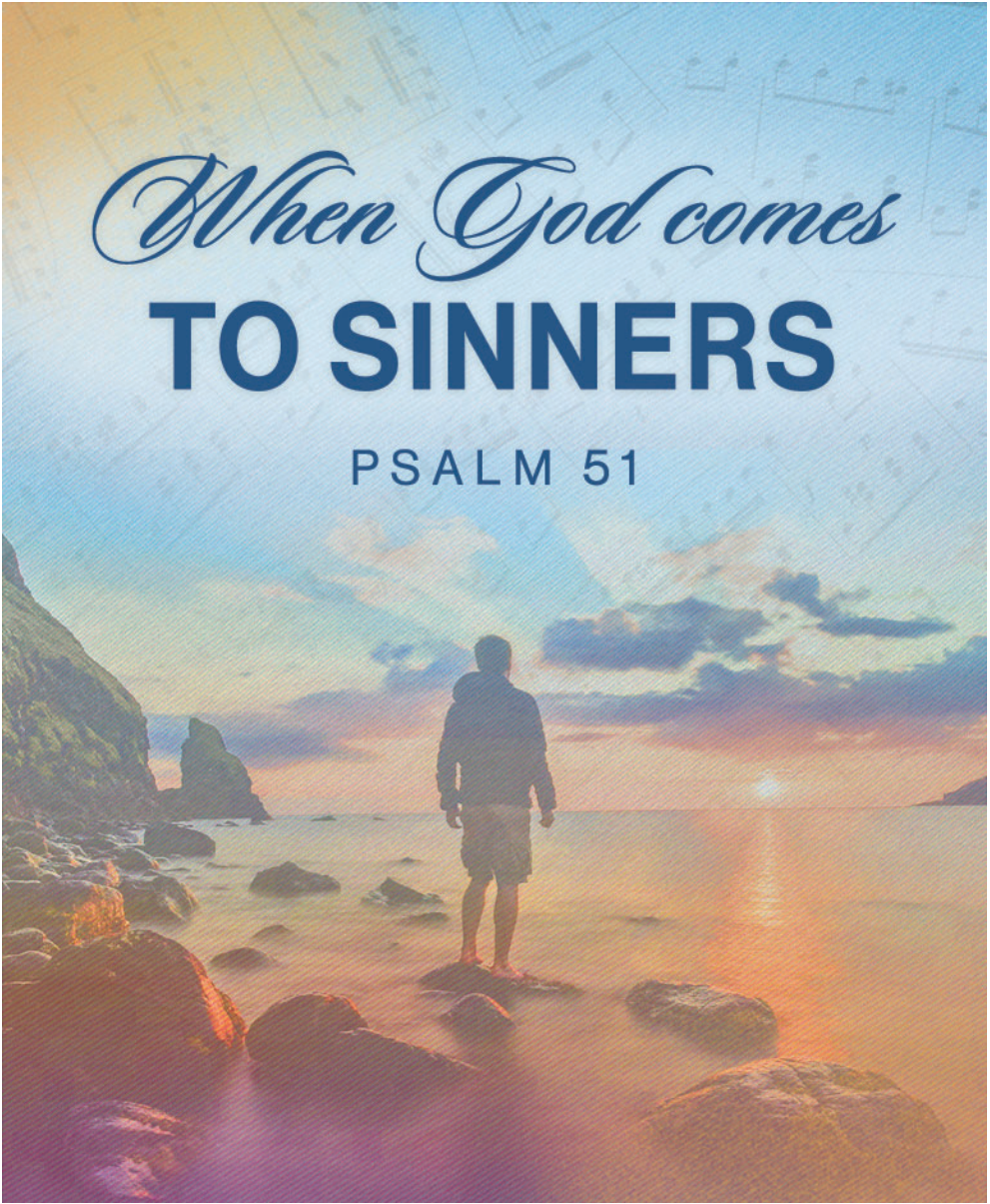
The sacrifices mentioned in the closing two verses pointed beyond themselves. Bulls and goats could never permanently remove sin. They anticipated the perfect sacrifice God would provide through his Son, Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Psalm 51 points us to Jesus, who offers mercy and grace along with renewal and restoration.



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, July 19, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



CONNECT

people to Christ
and His church



Pray for our kids attending CentriKid camp this week, July 20-24 at WorldSong Missions Place in Cook Springs, AL



PICKLEBALL NIGHT

MONDAY, JULY 27 • 6:00 PM • GYM

A fun, competitive evening, open to all! We will have a beginners clinic for those wanting to learn the basics of Pickleball, and we will have a King and Queen format tournament for individuals who are looking to put their skills to the test!

Cost: \$5 | Register on the App or mbchurch.com

55+ ANNUAL FISH FRY with PAUL ALDRICH

AUGUST 6 | 6:30 PM

Cost: \$10.00



Come enjoy the famed 55+ Fish Fry with Southern fried catfish and all the fixings, followed by an evening of laughter and music with the one and only Paul Aldrich. Register on the App or mbchurch.com.

GROW

them as disciples
and equip them to

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

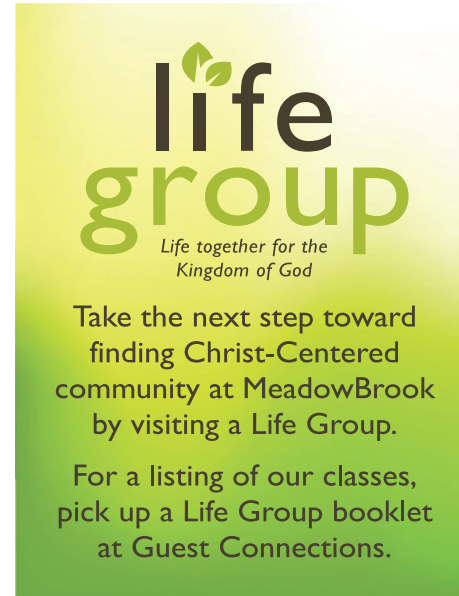
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
6:30 pm - The Collective (Young Adults) - Theater
6:30 pm - High School Girls Bible Study at The Hindsman's Home
6:30 pm - High School Guys Bible Study at The Steens' Home

JULY 20-24

CentriKid Camp at WorldSong - Cook Springs, AL

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

6:00 pm - God's Heart for the Nations - Café '59
6:30 pm - Middle School Girls Bible Study
6:30 pm - Middle School Guys Bible Study
6:30 pm - Worship Choir Rehearsal - Worship Center



life group

Life together for the Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE** gift!

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

July 19 - Isaiah 54	July 23 - Isaiah 58
July 20 - Isaiah 55	July 24 - Isaiah 59
July 21 - Isaiah 56	July 25 - Isaiah 60
July 22 - Isaiah 57	

SERVE

through missions,
ministry and worship



MOVE UP SUNDAY

LIFE GROUP SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION DAY

AUG 2 at 9 & 10:30 AM

PRESCHOOL • CHILDREN • STUDENTS



MidWeek Services resume August 5th

Something for ALL ages!



MeadowBrook Missions Cohort

Our Missions Cohort is a 10-session class where we will explore the biblical foundations for the Great Commission in the Old and New Testaments. You will also learn about the different mission partnerships MeadowBrook has and how you can be a part of them. Come and join us in the Round Room on Sundays at 4:00 PM, beginning August 9th.

Cost - \$15.00

REGISTER on the App or MBCHURCH.COM

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Rob Morris, Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sabrina Freeman, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Rita McClure

• Denise Dover & family in the loss of Max	• Family of Carol Moon in her passing
• John Walker & family in the loss of his grandfather	• Charles Lancaster - recovering from heart surgeries
• Olivia Pontarelli - recovering from heart surgery	• Ivan Fike, father of Matt - North Alabama Medical Center