

Day One: Leviticus 4:13-21

- In this section of the law, what sin is addressed (13)? When the people realize their guilt, what are they to do (14)? What are some examples of unintentionally committed sin? When you realize you've committed one, how do you typically respond?
- Summarize the ritual of atoning for unintentionally committed communal sin (14-21). Over and over again, in ancient Israel, in order for sins to be forgiven, an animal had to die a bloody death. Relate the ritual to the Passover in Exodus 12 and to Jesus' death on the cross. What is the culmination of the blood sacrifice narrative woven throughout scripture? What is your response?
- Read Matthew 6:12. Jesus says, "And forgive *us our* debts..." Ask the Holy Spirit for awareness of specific communal sins you're complicit in – as a Christian, an American, a man, a white person, etc. This is a process, so keep returning to this prayer. What would it look like to communally seek God's forgiveness?

Day Two: Psalm 51

- Describe what makes God merciful (1). What does David seek from the Lord (2, 7-9)? How does he describe his own sin (3-5)? What poetic and unrestrained language describes your own sin?
- What does David think of God's judgment (4)? What does the Lord desire (6)? What is David's prayer for restoration (10-12)? Make this prayer your own; there's no need to reinvent the wheel. Memorize and recite it whenever you confess and repent of your sins. How does David plan to walk in God's forgiveness (13-15)?
- What sacrifices matter to God (16-17)? Meditate on verse 17. Written by a man who committed both rape and murder, David had a deep need for God to cleanse the dark spots of his soul. Pray for a greater awareness of the magnitude of your own sins being wiped away. Picture how this may impact your soul.

Day Three: Psalm 139

- How does David describe being known by God (1-5)? Which line most grabs you? Why? What is David's response to how well the Lord knows him (6)? Do you feel similar? Why or why not?
- Summarize David's words about the futility of hiding from God (7-12). Consider this in relation to unconfessed sin. Maybe you flee from the Lord's presence, lay low in the depths, hide in the darkness, etc. Instead, bring your *whole* self to God, specific sins and all. How do you think he will receive you? Give it a try now.
- Describe David's account of the Lord being the author and originator of his life (13-18). Re-read these verses out loud and praise God for their truth. What is he speaking in response?
- David then abruptly asks that "the wicked" be cursed; summarize his petition (19-22). Why do you think these verses are included in this song? How does the psalm conclude (23-24)? Allow God to rummage through your heart now; what is he unearthing, and what everlasting path is he inviting you to walk on instead?

Day Four: Matthew 18:21-35

- What did Peter ask Jesus (21)? Why do you think he asked this; what was on his mind? How did Jesus respond (22)? This is his way of saying our forgiveness of others should be unlimited. Speak to the Lord about what makes it hard for you to forgive.

- Summarize the parable Jesus then tells (23-35). Do you see yourself in the story? Perhaps in multiple characters? What does the parable convey about the new reality and freedom forgiveness makes possible? What do you think it means to forgive “from your heart,” and what do you need from the Lord in order to do this?
- Take a deep breath and imagine God’s forgiveness as the air in your lungs. If you did nothing but try to hold it in, you would die. Now, breathe out, imagining it as a gentle wind of forgiveness touching those who’ve sinned against you. Repeat this a few times; allowing pertinent people and memories to come to mind.

Day Five: Luke 23:26-43

- How does Luke begin his account of the crucifixion (26-27)? What did Jesus say to the mourning women (28-31)? Why do you think he said these things? What is your response?
- Who was crucified alongside Jesus (32-33)? What did Jesus pray (34)? Even when we were his enemies, he prayed for our forgiveness. He was even willing to die for our forgiveness. Why do you think God orchestrated his great rescue plan in this way?
- Summarize the abuse and shame heaped on Jesus during his crucifixion (35-39). Which of these vignettes elicits the strongest response in you? Why do you think that’s the case?
- What did “the other criminal” say and do (40-42)? Why do you think he proclaimed these things? How did Jesus respond to the man’s request (43)? Jesus set this man free from sin and doom. He does the same for you! Receive his liberation; accept his invitation to a new reality.