



Watch the Sermon



Read the Scripture



Submit a Prayer Request



Don't journey alone!  
Join a Small Group



Need Information  
or Help?

### Opening Questions

- What is the most powerful experience you've ever had with confession? It could involve someone confessing to you or you confessing to someone else. If you can share about what took place.

### Read Together

1 John 1:5 - 2:2

### Big Idea

Success in walking with God is directly proportionate to our willingness to live a confessional lifestyle.

### Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean in verse 5 that "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all"?
2. In 1:6-2:2, John describes two ways of responding to the truth that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. In the weekend message, these two ways were described as the way of denial and the way of confession. Make a list of every description John gives us of the way of denial (see verses 6,8,10) and then do the same for the way of confession (see verses 7,9,1-2).
3. Verse 10 speaks about "showing that God's word has no place in our hearts." Read James 1:22-25. What do these two sets of verses have in common? In what way do they describe each other?
4. Read 1st John 2:1-2. Jesus is an advocate appointed by the Father. Read Romans 8:33-34 as well. In what way is Jesus like a lawyer appointed in our legal system? In what ways is He unique as an advocate compared to a lawyer/advocate today?
5. What does it mean for us to live a life with confession as a valued and important part of our lives? What does it mean for you to live a confessional life?

### Challenge

Spend some time as you move toward praying together to talk about how you might build "confession" into your small group time together. What would it mean to embrace living confessionally each time that you gather together? How might this take place as a whole group, as you split up into genders if your group has men and women?

#### Then move into confession.

1. Spend 2 minutes praying individually, asking God to reveal sin in your life
2. Break into pairs or triads
3. Then, each pray a prayer of confession and repentance. Pray this out loud to a partner or group, both as an act of confession to God, and to others.
4. When each person is done praying their confessional prayer, have one person pray for them - affirming God's forgiveness in their lives, affirming the groups love and forgiveness for them, and for anything else that needs to be said/prayed for.

This may be intimidating, but it is that pathway to healing, freedom and deliverance. Be bold, truthful and open.

### Next Step & Prayer

Use the prayer of confession (below) as you end your Small Group meeting, and keep it as a prayer to use often as a group.

#### OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Righteous Father, we who own more than we use, proclaim more than we experience and request more than we need. We come asking Your forgiveness. We seek Your salvation and then act like we can save ourselves. We beg Your forgiveness and then fail to forgive others. We experience Your grace and then act defeated. We rely on Your power, but only in our hard times. We have become confused and misguided in our walk with You.

- Forgive us our every defection from allegiance to You. We confess that we are an unclean people.
- Forgive us for our arrogance and replace our arrogance with Your humility. Help us consider others as better than ourselves. Teach us to serve each other.
- Forgive us for our love of money. Replace our greed with your generosity. Give us strength to fight the constant desire for more. Teach us to put our hope in You, not in temporary wealth.
- Forgive us for our obsession with appearance and sexuality. Replace our desires with Yours. Help us honor You with our bodies. Help us trust that Your commands come from Your heart of love and protection.
- Forgive us for forgetting that we are Yours, for following the devices and desires of our own hearts and for offending Your holy laws.
- Forgive us for leaving things undone which we ought to have done and having done those things which we ought not to have done.

Bring us to the place of unbroken commitment and steady trust in You for You are the way, the truth and the life and it is only in You that we find life.

Thank you that You have created us for yourself, that You bought us with a great price, and that our hearts are not quiet until they rest in You.

Help us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Help us be more like Him.

We thank You for your infinite grace and forgiveness in our lives and ask for Your power this week to walk in light even as You dwell in light. Amen.