

## From An Inch To A Mile And Back?

### Discussion Guide

**TEXT:** Psalm 51

**OPEN:**

1. Do you recall getting caught with your "hand in the cookie jar" as a child? As an adult? What happened each time?

**DIG:**

1. In how many ways did David sin in the Bathsheba affair, (2 Sam. 11:1-27)?
2. In light of his arrogance, adultery, deception and murder, how does he dare approach God? What does he feel?
3. Murder is a capital crime under Jewish law. Why also adultery, (Deut. 22:22)?
4. Since such sins involve others, what is the meaning of verse 4? What does this show about the nature of sin?
5. In light of all this, what does David ask God to do, (vs. 7-12)? What is "cleansing with hyssop," (Ex. 12:22, Num. 19:18; \*Heb. 9:18-20)? Why does David request this?
6. How does David hope to escape God's wrath, (vs. 13-17)? On what basis does he hope for a restored relationship?
7. Why does David generalize his prayer to include the whole nation, (vs. 18-19)? What does this say about the nature of sin?
8. What kinds of sacrifices does the Lord desire in verses 16-17? In verse 19? How important is a broken spirit or contrite heart, (Is. 66:1-2)? Is a broken spirit and a contrite heart enough, (Matt. 3:8; Acts 2:37)?

**REFLECT:**

1. Has covering up sin backfired in your life? How have you seen God's mercy when you owned up to your sin?
2. Are there really any victimless crimes? How do personal failings affect God? Others? Self? Society?
3. Are you more sensitive to sin and brokenness in yourself as a Christian than beforehand? Why?

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