

Small Group Guide



Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the words "confession" and "repentance," what emotions or images come to mind? Where do you think those associations come from?
2. The sermon describes confession as "agreeing with God that sin is sin — refusing to rename, excuse, minimize, compare, blame, or hide what is true." Which of those avoidance strategies — renaming, excusing, minimizing, comparing, blaming, or hiding — do you find yourself most naturally reaching for? Why do you think that is?
3. Romans 1:21-22 describes how rejecting God distorts our ability to perceive reality clearly, leaving us thinking we are wise while behaving foolishly. Where do you see this pattern playing out in the world around you? Where have you seen it play out in your own life?
4. The sermon connects Romans 12:2 — being transformed by the renewing of your mind — to the moment when we suddenly see a sin for what it truly is. Have you ever experienced a moment like that, where something you had justified or ignored suddenly became clear? What did that feel like?
5. The sermon describes two different postures after recognizing sin. One is carrying sin with us — letting it define us, bring shame, and limit us even after we have stopped committing it. The other is laying it down and running toward God. Which posture do you find yourself in more often? What makes it difficult to fully let go?
6. The sermon says that for those in Christ, repentance means "running into the arms of a loving father who has opened our eyes, set us free, declared us forgiven, called us his children." Does that description match how repentance feels for you in practice? If not, what gets in the way?
7. The sermon suggests that when our hearts and minds are genuinely oriented toward God's truth, reading Scripture begins to feel like a satisfying meal rather than taking medicine. Where would you honestly place yourself on that spectrum right now, and what do you think is shaping that experience?
8. The sermon opens with the idea that the power and effectiveness of our ministry — all of our ministry, not just those in formal roles — flows from the quality of our fellowship with God rather than from knowledge or rule-following. How does that reframe the way you think about your own role and effectiveness in serving others?