



# forgiveness

## DWELLING IN THE WORD

*A devotional resource for committees & teams*

### Psalm 32:1-5 (NRSV)

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.  
Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.  
While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin."

### Psalm 51:10-12 (NRSV)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

### Luke 11:1-4 (NRSV)

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished,  
one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as  
John taught his disciples."  
He said to them, "When you pray, say:  
Father, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial."

**1. Provide pencils/pens and a copy** of this handout to each team member.

**2. Read aloud a Scripture passage** from the suggestions to the left. Invite listeners to **circle words or phrases** that they notice as the Scripture is read.

**3. Allow a few moments** of silence for quiet reflection. Then, **share** your observations with each other.

**4. If time,** invite those present to **respond** to one or more of these questions:

- \* What background information (cultural, political, social) would be helpful to know? What makes me curious?
- \* What are the themes or settings of this passage that most intrigue me?
- \* What demands (or threats) do I hear in this passage? What promises?
- \* What is God up to in this Scripture reading? What is God up to among us?

**5. Pause for prayer,** giving thanks for God's word shared here today.

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*What other theme would you like to consider?*

*Which Scripture verses could you read?  
What questions might you ask?*

