

The Psalms of David

*Franklin Christian Church
Fall 2017 Life Group Study*



Psalm 32 (Week of Oct. 29)

Introduction: This psalm underscores the emotional power of forgiveness in the life of David. It offers a stark contrast to a life of secret sin (vv. 3-4) with a life of confession and forgiveness. Cultivating God's attitude of forgiveness leads to a trusting life, which Shimei resists in the story from 2 Samuel 16. Forgiveness also leads to joy and worship, exhibited in this psalm and throughout David's life.

Have a group member read the psalm aloud. Group members with Bibles can follow along and note anything that stands out.

1. Read vv. 1-2 and recall a powerful time of forgiveness in your life, either being forgiven or forgiving another. What can we learn about God's forgiveness through these events?
2. In 2 Samuel 16, David does not retaliate against Shimei's thrown stones or dirt. He exhibits a security poetically described in vv. 6-7. Discuss what you think it means to be secure, and describe some times when you feel most secure. Do these relate to forgiveness? How might security in God differ from worldly notions of security?

3. In reaction to God's forgiveness, David imagines God's new control of his life in vv. 8-9. Read those verses and imagine David's self control against Shimei's curses. Jesus "instructs us in the way you should go" in Luke 6:27-28. What are some of the difficulties of this "way?" Does this discussion relate to the observations about security above?

4. The concluding lines of the stanza offer a final contrast exhibited in 2 Samuel 16 between Shimei and David. With a lack of security and forgiveness in God, "many are the woes of the wicked..." (v. 10). Brainstorm together some woes that we avoid when we trust in God. What about when we give and receive forgiveness from one another?

5. David seems to demonstrate the opposite mindset found in verse 10: "But the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in Him." Thinking of what you have discussed so far, consider what it means to trust in God. It could be helpful to draw from life experience and trusting other people.

6. What does this psalm reveal about David's heart? What about God's heart? What has this revealed in your hearts?