

PSALM 32

Right now PRAYERFULLY entrust your study of this psalm to the Lord. Tell Him that you are counting on His Spirit to open up His Word to you, and to enable you to obey the principles He shows you. "Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord. And all God's people said, "AMEN!"

Review your memory verses by writing them out on a separate paper.

Read Psalm 32 aloud and then silently ____ ____.

1. Let's define some terms - a dictionary is a great aid in Bible study.

a. transgression

f. guilt

b. forgiven

g. deliverance

c. impute or count against (NIV)

h. counsel

d. deceit

i. blessed

e. acknowledge

Read Psalm 32:1-2.

2. The more we learn about what it means to be "blessed" the more we long for it.

What four things mentioned in verses 1 and 2 are keys to this wholeness?

3. Do you think the phrase "whose sin is covered" means that the person tried to hide his sin? Explain your answer from this section.

In David's time, God provided a system of sacrifices to cover or atone for sin. But that only pointed ahead to the ultimate rescue plan He had in mind for us when the very Son of God would come "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). As the Apostle John declares, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (I John 4:10). Now, every person who trusts in Christ's sacrifice is one "whose sins are covered...whose sin the Lord will *never* count against him." (Paul's translation of Psalm 32:1-2, seen in Romans 4:7-8.)

4. As David is speaking in Psalm 32, do you think verses 1 and 2 contain good ideas that he heard somewhere or do you think he is testifying with the voice of experience? Please support your answer from this psalm.

Read Psalm 32: 3-5.

5. If Psychology Today offered an article on David's situation, they'd probably say he was under a lot of stress!
- What was the source of his particular stress?
 - What effects did this stress have on him?
 - What did David do to deal with this stress?
 - What did God do to relieve David's stress?
6. The longer David resisted the truth the worse things became. Why do we sometimes resist facing and admitting our sin? What do we do instead?
7. Maybe you think that your sins are way too big or unique to be forgiven. Though we don't know the specific sins David faces in this psalm, *scan* II Samuel 11:1-12:13. Notice the sins that David committed *and* that God forgave.
- In II Samuel 12:8-9, 13 and Psalm 32:5, to whom did David confess?
 - Why do we confess all sins, even what we do against others, to the Lord? (Psalm 51:4 may help.)

This reminds us of another beautiful facet of God's salvation. The perfectly faithful, righteous Creator is the One we disdain and reject as we make our sinful choices. Yet He is also the very One who initiated and carried out our rescue from the destruction sin brings, at *immense* cost to Himself. Amazing grace!

Read Psalm 32:6-7.

8. From the context of the whole psalm, what kind of danger or trouble do you think David means in verses 6b and 7?

9. When David finally admitted the truth about himself to God, what other truths became clear to him (verses 6 and 7)?

Whether we're facing yesterday's unacknowledged sin or today's temptation to stray, as we turn honestly to Him in the battle we can count upon all that these verses describe. And in times of confusion, when we need help telling the false accusations of the enemy from the clear trustworthy voice of our Redeemer, the very same promises are true.

Read Psalm 32:8-9.

10. David has learned to admit he's a sinner - and we *all* share that basic condition!

We're prone to deceiving and being deceived, wrong thinking and wrong choices.

Explain what is made available to people like you and me by God Himself (verse 8).

11. The Lord is showing us in this section the way to escape the sin that wreaks such havoc in our lives. Although verse 9 states what we *aren't* to be like, list some words that describe how we *should* respond to God's counsel.

12. Are you being "mulish" in areas of your life? Maybe this list will help you identify some as you *search your heart with Him*:

overly-sensitive uncompassionate resentful, bitter uncontrolled tongue
 self-indulgent in use of time, energy, money, things not accepting God's forgiveness not forgiving others when God does unwilling to humble self
 other (explain)

13. From this psalm, what does God want you to do about areas such as these? Will you do it now?

Read Psalm 32:10-11.

14. According to the whole context of this psalm, who is upright in heart (verses 10-11) and godly (verse 6)?

15. a. Why does God want you to heed the message of this psalm? What does He want you to avoid?

b. What does He desire for you instead?

16. A final thought: David has not only learned to be honest before God, he has also become willing—at God's direction, by His wisdom—to be open and transparent before people. He's written them this psalm so they know *all* about him!

a. Especially in his position as king, this honesty could be very difficult. But as you look back at this psalm, what resulted from David's decision to share God's work in his life with his people and with us?

b. How is this an example and encouragement for you today?