



PLANTED

Confession and Assurance

1. Why might some be resistant to confession? You might start by discussing the questions below.

- a. Doesn't God already know when I've sinned? Why do I need to tell Him?
- b. Does confession diminish the once-and-for-all atoning work of Christ?

2. Choose to read either Psalm 51 or Psalm 32.

- a. What does this Psalm teach us about confession? Is there a verse/phrase that captures it well or resonates with you?
- b. What does this Psalm teach us about God?
- c. Do you notice any shifts in the Psalmist or movement in the Psalm?

3. Pray this confession together:

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus's powerful name. Amen.*

- a. How did it feel to pray this together?
- b. Did you feel personally convicted by any part of this corporate confession?
- c. Why do we need both corporate and individual confession?

4. How does confession shape us, both individually and as a community?

5. Read 1 John 1:8-9.

- a. What reality is named in v. 8?
- b. What is promised in v. 9?
- c. Is there anything in your life you need to confess or change in response to this week's message?

* Mike Cospers, *Rhythms of Grace: How the Church's Worship Tells the Story of the Gospel* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2013), 130-31.