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# I want to KNOW YOU: the Attributes of God

## MERCIFUL

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**LESSON 25** *questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.*

1. What truth, verse, or insight from knowing our **Righteous** God better has helped you?
  
2. Pray and ask God to teach and guide you into a deeper understanding and gratitude of His **mercy** as you read **Psalm 51**.
  - a) Define **merciful**.
  
  - b) Try to differentiate between God's "**mercy**" and His "grace."

Note: David wrote this Psalm after being confronted by the prophet, Nathan, for the sins of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah (see **2 Samuel 11-12**).

3. a) From **Psalm 51**, what were David's first six words as he began his honest confession to God?
  - b) What does that say about David's understanding of himself and of his God?
  
  - c) From the rest of **V1**, what else did David know about God?
  
4. What did David request of God, and what did he know in **V2-3**?
  
5. a) What strikes you about David's ongoing confession in:
  - **V4a**
  
  - **V4b**
  
  - **V5**
  - b) How do people in our culture often handle their sin, in contrast to David?

6. David acknowledged his sin yet did not seek to justify himself. When and how are you prone to justify your sin (be it “large” or “small”)?
7. When have you been willing to ask the same thing of our **Merciful** God that David did in **V7**?
8. How was David’s sin affecting him before he confessed it according to **V8**?
9. a) Choose one thing that stands out to you in what David was requesting of God in **V9-12**.
- b) What might a “pure heart” look like, and how is that possible according to **V10a**?
- c) For what sin struggle do you need to ask God to renew a steadfast and willing spirit (**V10b, 12b**)? Explain.
10. When have you seen someone’s sin chapter used to teach others? (**V13**)
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11. a) Why do you think David continued to ask God for forgiveness in **V14a**?
- b) In **V14b-15**, when are you most inclined to vocalize (sing, pray, speak, or write) about God’s righteousness?
12. What might David mean in **V16**?
13. a) What will God approve of as noted in **V17**?
- b) How can one have a “broken spirit” and a “contrite heart”?
14. a) Read **Matthew 9:10-13**. In what ways did Jesus demonstrate His **mercy** in:

- **V10**
- **V11-12**
- **V13**

b) How do you connect what Jesus said in **Matthew 9:13** with what David was expressing in **Psalm 51:16-17**?

15. How have you come to know God better in the depth of His **mercy** and/or understanding your need for His **mercy**?

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### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. Just as tasting of God's **mercy** moved David to write a song of praise, take some time to sing a song of praise to our **merciful** God (either a known song or a song God creates in your heart). When you are finished jot down a meaningful line in the song.
  
2. Hunt for the word **mercy** in the passages below, and comment on how we are to respond to His **mercy**:
  - **Micah 6:8**
  
  - **Luke 6:32-36**
  
  - **Romans 12:1**
  
  - **Jude 20-23**
  
3. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: **Luke 6:36**  
  
b) Form a prayer to your **Merciful** God.

**NAME**

**PRAYER REQUEST**