



# Sermon Discussion Guide

JULY 14, 2019 • THE END OF INNOCENCE • STEVE DENEFF  
PSALM 32

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## ACCEPT

As you converse with members of your group this week, listen for ways God is working in their stories. Ask questions that encourage further conversation, but don't try to fix their problems.

- How is God working in their lives?
- How do these stories make up God's greater work of His Kingdom?

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## ENCOURAGE

"I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment.

I know where to discover knowledge and discernment.

All who fear the Lord will hate evil.

Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance,

corruption and perverse speech." **Proverbs 8:12-13**

- What were the positive, encouraging experiences people saw this week? Where might God have been in those situations?
- What were some of the difficult situations or experiences of the week? Where might God have been during those times?

*Share Scriptural words of encouragement with each other based on how you have been praying for each other this week.*

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## TEACH

### Teaching Summary

The desire for innocence is a primal instinct. Just as we seem inclined to do what is wrong, we are inclined to cover it up (v.1), to "keep silent" (v.3) until we can stand it no more (v.4). Then we admit to our sin and discover that our innocence lies, not away from guilt, but through it... on the other side of it (v.5). With new confidence and enthusiasm, we cling to God who does even more than we ask for, who not only covers our sin (v.1) but surrounds us with songs of deliverance (v.7). At the end of our innocence is the beginning of God's unfailing love (v.10).

### Review Questions

1. What area of your life are you most dissonant from the character of Jesus?
2. To whom can you confess this?
3. When you confess it, what is God speaking to you through His Word and/or through the words of others?

### Transformation Questions

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

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## REFLECT AND CORRECT

Read this prayer of confession together and hear the absolution from the close of Sunday's service:

### Confession (All):

O Lord, hear my prayer; listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief  
Do not bring me into judgment for no one living is righteous before you

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love  
According to your compassion forget my transgressions  
Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.  
Teach me to do your will for you are my God; may your Spirit lead me on level ground.  
Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in Him.  
Now I wait for the Lord; my soul waits and in His Word I put my hope.

**Absolution (Leader):**

(Psalm 103:8,10-12) "The Lord is compassionate and merciful,  
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.  
He does not punish us for all our sins;  
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.  
For his unfailing love toward those who fear him  
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.  
He has removed our sins as far from us  
as the east is from the west.

(Ezekiel 36: 25-29) "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

"And you will live in Israel, the land I gave your ancestors long ago. You will be my people, and I will be your God. I will cleanse you of your filthy behavior. I will give you good crops of grain, and I will send no more famines on the land.

(John 8:8-11) "Then Jesus stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, 'Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?'

'No, Lord,' she said.

And Jesus said, 'Neither do I. Go and sin no more.'"

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**SERVE**

How can you encourage another member in your group to use or strengthen his or her particular gift(s)?

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**PRAY**

Here is a guided prayer based on Psalm 32. The leader can start and people in the group can finish each sentence.

"What joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!"

*(give people a moment to be silent and listen)*

- "Lord, you have heard our confession, and we thank you that you have forgiven us. Please continue to cleanse us and keep us from..."
- "You are my hiding place and you surround me with songs of victory. God, we rejoice together for the following victories..."
- "Lord, you say you will guide us along the best pathways for our lives. Today, we pray for guidance in..."

"So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!"

Amen.

*Share ways you can pray for each other over the coming week.  
Spend time praying with each other now, listening to God for ways to pray.*