



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.  
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

**04/17/2016**

Guilt can follow us for years. This week John spoke of an offering that removes guilt and cleanses our conscience. Having received a clean conscience, we can enter God's presence and experience a restored relationship with him and others.

## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. Write down any new insights you might have had during Sunday's message. What further questions do you have?
2. Read Leviticus 5:5-6. What is the first step of this sacrifice?
3. How do you know when you have unintentionally sinned? How does this process of discovery help your relationship with God and others?
4. In verse 5, what goes hand-and-hand when you realize your sin? How does this action affect the relationship?
5. The second thing that God commands is that the individual comes before the Lord. What helps ease the fear of approaching someone once you've discovered that you have hurt, offended or sinned against them?

6. Read Psalm 103:1-14. How does this image of God inform our understanding of coming to him with our sins? (Cf. John 3:17). What part is most reassuring?
  
7. Read 1 John 1:5-9. Confession sets us right with God, however, the stain or effects of sin can remain on our conscience. What does this passage say about the effect of God's forgiveness of sin? How does this free us to live?
  
8. What does John's letter mean when he says God is "faithful and just to forgive"? How far does this go?
  
9. First John 1:5-9 talks about walking in the light. How can you live so as to walk in the light and avoid intentionally staining your conscience?
  
10. John's message emphasized Jesus' role as "Purifier." Those who have faith in what Jesus has accomplished are forgiven and set right before God. What role does purifying have in the life of someone who follows Jesus?
  
11. There is a cleansing of conscience that God wants to perform in your life, how does this happen? What does the process look like?

## **MOVING FORWARD**

Leviticus 4 states that the individual should turn to God once they've realized their sin or guilt. In the privacy of your own prayer, write down any guilt or shame that you carry and would like to release. Confess that burden. In prayer, claim God's promise to forgive and cleanse your conscience.