



Sermon Formation Guide

Isaiah 1:10-20

Psalms 32

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Luke 19:1-10

Fr. Kevin Miller

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Week 1 of 1

“Prone to Wander, Lord, I Feel It”

Everything that tries to pull you from God is also an opportunity to grow closer to Him

Church of the Resurrection, Glen Ellyn

Use these questions in your small group, prayer cell, or personal devotion time to go deeper into the Word and a life of Worship and Mission.

Main Bible Passage

Read Psalm 32. Then re-read verses 3 through 6.

Main Idea

✦ As followers of God, we're prone to wander off. We sin—and then we harden our heart and don't confess it. We face an overwhelming situation—and try to handle it on our own. We need God's guidance—and we don't 100% surrender our will so that we are able to hear and follow that guidance.

✦ Here, in this worship song (Psalm 32), the writer tells us, from personal experience, some great news.

✦ Your sin is an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord—if you confess (verses 1-6)

✦ Your trouble is an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord—if you pray (verses 7-8)

✦ Your perplexity is an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord—if you surrender your will (verses 9-10)

✦ God has great mercy for those who trust Him (verse 11)—as in, move toward God when they most feel like they want to move away from Him

✦ The key is a surrendered will. Everything that tries to pull us away from God—our sin, our trouble, our perplexity—can actually move us closer to God, if we surrender our will to God

Engage With God

✦ Think about a time you sinned and didn't confess it for some time. How was your experience like or unlike what this psalm describes in verse 3-4? What made you finally decide to confess your sin? What did you experience or learn about confession?

✦ Think about a time you faced an overwhelming situation. To what extent did you turn to God for help, and to what extent did you try to solve the problem without that prayer, trust, and reliance on God?

✦ In verses 9 and 10, the Lord seems to be speaking, offering two ways He can guide us: “I will guide you with my eye” versus “like horse or mule ... who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.” Can you think of a time you were stubborn to the point that God had to guide you with firm, external means? What about a time you were so surrendered to God’s will, that even a “glance” from Him was enough to change your course?

✦ How would you answer a person who says, “Look, I’m in this situation, and whatever happens here is really up to me, so I don’t see what value prayer is going to have”?

Engage With Family and Friends

✦ If you have hurt someone close to you, confess it and ask that person for forgiveness

Engage With Worship and Mission

✦ Worship: Pray about a situation in your life—one in which you sinned, are troubled, or need God’s guidance. Start by, as best you can, surrendering your will in this situation to God.

✦ Mission: Pray for someone you know who is struggling in a situation in part because he or she is not surrendering to God.

Bible Verse to Remember

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32:6)

Resources

✦ *On the value of confessing your sin (Psalm 32:1-6)*: Do you really need to read more about this? You’ll learn the most by doing it, by actually confessing your sin. The next time your prayer cell meets, take the risk. Or schedule an appointment to make a confession to a pastoral staff member, by emailing michelle@churchrez.org

✦ *On how to be guided by God (Psalm 32:9-10)*: Hearing God: developing a conversational relationship with God by Dallas Willard (InterVarsity Press, 1999). Richard Foster calls this “The best book on divine guidance I have ever read,” and I would agree.



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