

# PSALMS OF LENT | Psalm 51

## GIVING UP ON THE OLD

(B) I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down. You're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil. You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair. I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born.

### WHAT GOD IS CHASING

What you're after is *truth from the inside out*.

## GIVING IN TO THE NEW

(C) Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life. Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life. Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing. Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health. God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me.

### WHO GOD IS CHASING

Bring *me back* from gray existence, put a fresh wind in *my* sails!

## HOW I RESPOND

**Then**, you'll give me a job teaching rebels (like me) your ways so the lost (like me) can find their way home (too!). Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God, and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways. Unbutton my lips, dear God; I'll let loose with your praise. Going through the motions doesn't please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you. I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice.

Make Zion the place you delight in, repair Jerusalem's broken-down walls.

**Then** you'll get real worship from us, acts of worship small and large, **Then** you'll have all the bulls they can heave onto your altar!

## INSTRUCTIONS

Let the Spirit lead you to an image, memory, or emotion of an experience of disorientation (B) *or* reorientation (C) for yourself or another.

*Are you being led into giving up on the old or giving into the new?*

Let the Spirit help you answer this question. Let the Spirit lead you, don't choose for yourself. But, once there, let the psalmist's words become your words, your confession as an act of hope; for yourself or another.

**Then, and not before**, let the Spirit draw you into what/who God is pursuing, chasing after.

*Is God chasing the truth or chasing after you?*

If led to "Giving Up," see *what* God is chasing. If led to "Giving In," see *who* God is chasing.

From there, in the knowledge of God's pursuit, **candidly voice your response** to His chasing, using the "How I Respond" if you need to. Offering your heart and life as an act of spiritual worship.