



rites of spring



Week 3 - Confession

God is a loving [FATHER](#). [Psalm 100:5]

He is also a very [HOLY GOD](#). [Isaiah 6:3]

“There are tensions to manage
and problems to solve.”
Andy Stanley

1 Peter 1:15-16 [ESV]

*But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’*

:: Fact: I’ve [SINNED](#).

Romans 3:23

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

:: Fact: Sin has a price-tag. It cost [GOD](#) something.

Hebrews 9:22 (ESV)

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

:: Fact: Sin has a price-tag. It cost [US](#) and others something.

:: My sin creates a [SEPARATION](#) in my relationship with God.

Isaiah 59:2

Your sins have separated you from God.

- :: My sin blocks my [PRAYER](#) life. [Isaiah 59:1-2]
- :: My sin causes shame and guilt. [Genesis 3:7-8, 11-12]
- :: My sin affects others.

:: Fact: Concealing, [DOWNPLAYING](#), or blaming others shuts off God's work in my life.

Confession unlocks the door for God to work in my life; it removes the lid.

Our journey with God takes a huge step forward through the process of confession.

Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Romans 10:9 (NLT)

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

:: What Healthy Confession Looks Like – Psalm 51

Confession begins one-on-one with God, but it often moves from there to include [OTHERS](#).

James 5:16

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

Why would we “confess our sins to each other?”

- :: We confess to each other for the purpose of [RECONCILIATION](#).
- :: We confess to each other for the purpose of [ACCOUNTABILITY](#).
- :: We confess to each other for the purpose of [GIVING GOD GLORY](#).

NOTES:



CHRIS CONRAD grew up in San Diego, CA where he met his wife, Mary, in 5th grade, though they didn't get married for some years after that! In 1993 the Conrad's, along with a launch team of 13 adults, planted a church in South Dakota. Seven years later they planted a second church in Madison, WI. In January 2006, Chris became the Director of Church Planting for The Wesleyan Church in North America. In 2010 Chris was elected to serve as the District Superintendent of the West Michigan District of the Wesleyan Church and in the summer of 2018, he was elected to serve as the Chief Towel Carrier (Regional

Superintendent) for the newly formed Great Lakes Region of the Wesleyan Church. Chris has written three books including *Five Things Anyone Can Do to Introduce Others to Jesus* and *Perfect Blend*, a book designed to help people talk to others about their faith. Chris and Mary have two teenage daughters and presently reside just outside of Grand Rapids, MI.



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life.
In Your name, Amen.***

For Further Reflection:

:: Take a few moments to share one way God is working in your life through the Rites of Spring series.

:: Discuss the reality of sin in life.

:: What are some implications of it? [personally/corporately, publicly/privately]

:: Why is sin a factor in our relationship to God?

:: Share a time you witnessed/experienced repercussions of sin in life.

:: Discuss the significance of confession in life.

:: What are some implications of it? [personally/corporately, publicly/privately]

:: Why is confession important to God?

:: What are reasons people tend to avoid engaging in confession?

:: Why is it important to move past those reasons? How can we do that?

:: Share a time you witnessed/experienced the benefits of confession.

:: Reread/Review Psalm 51.

:: What stands out to you in David's words?

:: Discuss how sin is "first" against God. Why is that the case?

:: What is a tangible next step for you in light of this Scripture passage?

:: What role can/should healthy accountability play in this process? In your life?

:: What is one thing God is asking you to do next in order to live in greater freedom from sin and in Jesus?

:: Take time to talk to God out of a posture and heart of confession.