



**Series:** Seasons in the Psalms, Reflections on God and the Significance of the Soul

**Passage:** Psalm 32

**Title:** The Joy of Forgiveness

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard 8/31/2025

**Discussion Starter** – The events of 2 Samuel 11 and 12 are traditionally assumed to be the backstory for this Psalm? How many bad choices did David make? How long did his deception continue? Who initiated a move to resolve the issue?

### **Read Psalm 32:1-5**

1. How are the terms transgression, sin, and iniquity similar? How are they different?
2. How are the actions forgiven, covered, and imputed similar and/or different?
3. How does David describe the physical effects of his hidden sin in verses 3 and 4? Who is likely speaking to us when we are burdened in this way? What message is being spoken?
  - a. Describe a time that you felt weighed down by sin?
4. What change in action by David is described in verse 5? How does God respond?
  - b. Selah means to pause and carefully consider. It is used following verses 4 and 5, and again at verse 7. What additional truth is revealed as you meditate on these verses and their place in this Psalm?

### **Read Psalm 32:6-11**

5. Verse 6 is in the center of this Psalm. What is David's central exhortation from his experience? What warning is given alongside the encouragement?
6. Read Exodus 34:6-7. How is David's exhortation in Psalm 32:6 in keeping with God's nature?
7. What new view of God does David have after he transparently confesses his sin? How is God as our hiding place related to hiding our sin in verse 5?
8. How does God want to walk with David as described in verses 8-9? Where must David be looking to receive guidance from God? How does leading by eye compare to the heavy hand in verse 4?
  - c. Describe what is meant by the language of being led by eye compared to with a bit and bridle? Which do you prefer? How does God subtly yet effectively lead you?
9. Into which two classifications does this Psalm imagine all people? What are the characteristics of each category?
10. This Psalm begins and ends with great rejoicing and at the very center, (v.6) exhorts people to confess their sin and seek God's gracious forgiveness. Does forgiveness of sin and transparency before God provide you with great joy, confidence, and comfort? Or is confession of sin a burden to be performed out of fear of a God waiting to punish?