

WE BELONG

8TH MARCH 2015

ALLAN DEMOND

BE REAL ABOUT YOUR DARK SIDE; CONFESSION

JAMES 5:16, 1 JOHN 1:5-10

Read Psalm 32:1-5

1. V 3-4 Describe David's physical, mental and spiritual state. Why was he in this condition and for how long do you think?
2. V5 What were the three words used to describe evil? How does this verse describe David's response to his unconfessed sin? Was his a private or public confession?
3. How do verses 1 and 11 describe the result of David's confession?
- 4a. How do these verses as well as James 5:16 challenge and encourage you?
 - b. How might confession bring about healing?
5. Read Mark 1:5 We are told that confession is a highway – potentially opens up opportunities and new possibilities as God rules in our heart. It also means taking a step back and considering our past. Discuss.
6. Which of the following three practices of confession do you sense God challenging you? Discuss each in turn.
 - I. Private confession where we understand how holy God is; look at the example of David; absorb the meaning of 1 John 1:9.
 - II. Corporate confession – think of our relationship sins and our justice sins (eg ethical shopping). How might we as a Church/Group respond with confession?
 - III. Confession in Community – requires an attitude of 'loving you like family', based on safety to be vulnerable and trust with one another.
With whom can you be real and pray such prayers of confession?
7. OPTIONAL: Prayers of confession in pairs or small clusters.