

RESTORED

Bible Study • Study Guide

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit
(Psalm 51:12 (KJV) and Offertory, Divine Service 3, *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)*)

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, bless us with Your wisdom and truth as we explore Your Word for insights about living to honor You. As we learn how David and Peter dealt with the difficulties in their lives, help us to see how they relied on You, and how You blessed them. We invite Your Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds, that we would learn more about Your love for us and for all our neighbors, and about Your will for each of us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Share what the concept of being restored means to you. _____

For many of us, restoration is needed after a time of brokenness, whether in our relationships, health (our own or that of loved ones), or stumbling along our spiritual walk. Let's look at two biblical examples of brokenness and restoration:

David — Broken Because of His Own Sin

Read 2 Samuel 12:1–14. Discuss the situation that led up to David's brokenness. (Skim through chapter 11 if you need more information.)

Did David recognize the wrong he was doing? _____

What leads you to think this? _____

Why did he not stop or turn away? _____

What was Nathan's role in God's dealing with David? _____

Read 2 Samuel 12:13–20. What indications do you see that David is truly repentant? _____

Read Psalm 51:1–11. Discuss what these verses reveal about David's relationship with God.

What leads David from his sinful attitude to brokenness (repentance) and then finally to being restored? _____

Read Psalm 51:17. Share what this reveals about David. _____

How can a broken spirit be considered a sacrifice to God? _____

How might this verse be helpful to those struggling with guilt? _____

Compare Psalm 51 with Isaiah 42:1–3. Who is the servant in v. 1? _____

How does this servant deal with those who are struggling? _____

Peter — Broken by Fear

Read Matthew 16:13–20, John 6:66–69, and John 13:36–38.

How would you describe Peter's view of Jesus as shown in these verses? _____

Now turn to John 18:15–18, 25–27.

Describe Peter's feelings about Jesus as he waits in the courtyard while Jesus is being questioned. _____

Why is Peter in the courtyard? What does his presence say about him? _____

How do you think he feels as the rooster begins to crow? Compare Peter's attitude in Luke 22:60 to his feelings in Luke 22:61. _____

Read John 21:15–19. After Jesus' resurrection, He appears to His disciples on the shore "by the Sea of Tiberias," where Peter has led them to "go fishing."

How does Jesus restore Peter? _____

To what is Peter being restored? _____

Discuss how we might see hope for ourselves in this interaction between Jesus and Peter.

Our Brokenness —

Due to Fear, Pride, Complacency, Resentment, Exhaustion, Disasters, Illness, Worry, Loneliness, Distractions of the World ...

We know, because God tells us in His Word, that all of us are broken by sin, separated from Him and the love, joy, and peace He intended for us.

Can we, too, hope to be restored as David and Peter were? _____

How can He — how does He — restore each of us? _____

Is it possible that we, although broken and sinful individuals, can be instrumental in helping others to discover God's restorative power? Discuss your answers, and give some examples.

Read the following verses and explain which gives you the most comfort.

Psalm 80:3 _____

Psalm 147:3–6 _____

Isaiah 40:30–31 _____

John 10:27–28 _____

1 Peter 5:10 _____

Memorize one or more verses to help you remember God's love and determination for keeping you in His family. Consider writing the verses on 3x5 cards and placing them where you will see them often, such as your bathroom mirror.

Closing Prayer: Our loving heavenly Father, You have indeed been good to us throughout all generations. We thank You for these examples of Your own chosen people whose faith and devotion to You faltered or even failed, and whom You lovingly restored. Help us to find peace, purpose, and also joy, as we cling to Your promises, fulfilled in Your Son, Jesus, to always be with us. Forgive us when we fail, and lead us as we serve You. In His name we pray. Amen.

Bible verses are taken from the ESV translation unless otherwise noted.

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