

## **CRT Solemn Assembly Preparation Worksheet**

Introduce this activity by giving a short devotional thought on how lightly we treat the issue of sin in our individual lives and rarely think about the sin issue in our church family. **Psalm 32:5** mentions sin, transgression, and iniquity all in one verse.

- Sin - missing the mark; doing something against God or against another person...or not doing something that God has instructed you to do. Romans 3:23 - falls short of the glory of God. Target illustration. Sin causes us to build a mind and will toward evil and away from God. This leads to transgression.
- Transgression - presumptuous sin; intentionally and willfully breaking the law. Transgression is willfully trespassing. Illustration of crossing a fenced in ranch with a clear sign: NO TRESPASSING. When we knowingly cross God's line.
- Iniquity - is more deeply rooted - root cause. Iniquity refers to a premeditated choice. What's the difference between manslaughter and first degree murder? Pre-meditation. David's sin with Bathsheba involved killing of her husband, Uriah.

Notice how many times David uses sin, rebellion (referring to transgression) and guilt (referring to iniquity) in Psalm 51. This psalm is after Nathan, the prophet, has confronted David about his sin with Bathsheba.

**Read Psalm 51** - this is the key factor in spiritual renewal - God's people must confess sin, transgression, iniquity in order for God to bring restoration, revitalization.

**Key Issue: Revelation 1:20 the seven lampstands are the seven churches - what is the warning given to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:5 - remember how far you have fallen, and repent or...I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.** Churches must take serious how they have sinned against the Lord. You want your church revitalized??? First spend time with God and make sure you LISTEN and HEAR what HE has to say to you about this issue.

Instructions:

- ❖ Divide into 3 or 4 teams (3-5 members on each team)
- ❖ Assign one of the following passages (and questions to be answered) to each team.
  - 1 Samuel 15 - How did Saul sin? What were the "critical moments" that led to his sin? What were the results or consequences of his sin?
  - Acts 5:1-11 - How did Ananias and Sapphira sin? What were the "critical moments" that led to their sin? What were the results or consequences of their sin?
  - Exodus 32 - How did the Israelites and Aaron sin? Where were the "critical moments" that led to their sin? What were the results or consequences of their sin?

- Numbers 13:26-14:45 - How did the Israelites sin? What were the “critical moments” that led to their sin? What were the results or consequences of their sin?
- ❖ Allow 15-20 minutes for the groups to discuss and mark their answers on a flip chart. Have them appoint a group reporter to share their findings with the larger group. As groups give their answers to the sin question...allow other groups to help brainstorm any other sins that could be listed. **Facilitator Tip: You may have to help groups get to the “root causes” or “heart issues” of these Biblical stories.** As you walk around and listen...help them to “dig” deeper.
- ❖ Reporting Time - 10 minutes
- ❖ Debrief Time - What consistencies have you seen in all these examples? What have you learned from this exercise?
- ❖ Group Exercise Brainstorming Time: Based upon your own personal knowledge and experience at CHURCH ABC (insert church name of CRT), what do you see in the past history of the church as “critical moments” that led to sin? Would you label this sin, transgression, or iniquity? Allow as much time as needed as possible. This needs sufficient time to process and discuss among group members.
- ❖ Reporting Time - 20 minutes or more - Allow each group to share and come to a consensus of at least 2 and no more than 5 items that the CRT agrees unanimously as the sins of the church that need to be confessed and turned away from in the solemn assembly.

#### Preparation for a solemn assembly:

1. A concentrated time (40 Days) of focused congregational prayer
2. Senior pastor preaching a 4-6 weeks sermon series on similar passages of Scripture (as used above) and giving examples of the CRT work on the “sin list” to be confessed during the Solemn Assembly.
3. An informal meeting with the congregation leading up to the solemn assembly - a town hall meeting to present the CRT work on the “critical moments” in the church and the result of sin, transgression, or iniquity. Concluding with these are the items we are going to be confessing to the Lord during our Solemn Assembly on (give the date and time).
4. Plan the congregational solemn assembly - to include a celebration of who God is, a celebration of how God has revealed Himself to the congregation during the 40 Days of Prayer, and the confession of congregational sin. The conclusion will consist of singing praises to God for His restoration, mercy, and grace.  
**Facilitator Tip:** Encourage the pastor and/or leadership to include Psalm 32:5 and Psalm 51 and other previously discussed passages from this exercise into the solemn assembly service.