

# BEATITUDES

## LEADER'S NOTES: LESSON SIX

# Matthew 5:8 (Pure in Heart)

## 1. Read Matthew 5:8. How would you describe someone who is pure in heart? What qualities do they possess?

Hey Life Group Leaders! Welcome to week 6 of our Beatitudes Life Group Video Series! You, again, have six questions coming up based on Pastor Dusty's video lesson! Remember that these leader notes are to serve as a guide for further and deepening conversation with your Life Group, not as the answers! Enjoy this week's discussion and always remember to ask an extra question such as "Why do you believe that?" to draw out some more conversation from your group members!

In the video, Dusty defined someone who is pure in heart as someone who is "Free from the tyranny of a divided self." It's an "... (inflation) of all of the praise, and a minimizing of all of the critique." This is a very interesting point to start talking about characteristics or qualities of someone who is pure in heart. Using Dusty's definition, as a foundation, you can ask a follow up question such as "What is tyranny of the divided self?" and "How have you experienced your divided self?" to keep the conversation going and to draw out instances of mercy in your group member's lives!

## 2. With Matthew 5:8 in mind, read Romans 12:3. In what ways are the ideas of being "pure in heart" and "think of yourself with sober judgment" connected?

Romans 12:3 reads, "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."

This might not be a very easy question for some people to answer. And that is okay!! Be encouraging to everyone to share and listen to one another.

This instruction is another connection to our community of people around us. We are to lift one another up and not look at ourselves with too much confidence. The way Dusty put it in the video, he said "... the temptation that all of us have to be seen as spectacular." "Not that we shouldn't take initiative and try to get things done. But we need one another in so many different ways. And we need God even more! Funny thing though ... God often uses other people

to tell us things and help us. If we have too much confidence in our own personal abilities or intelligence or perspective, we often miss out on the great experiences that God has waiting for us.

Being pure in heart is part of having proper perspective on our abilities and intelligence. It's also recognizing and accepting the help from people who may be used by God to fill in where we are falling short. It's a dance we have with God. The more in tune we are to him, the better we feel and understand his lead.

### **3. Take a couple of minutes so each group member can silently read Matthew 6:1-18. How do these verses describe what it is to be "pure in heart"?**

During the video, Pastor Dusty quoted a few pieces from this section of Scripture. He talked about not showing off to others as you are "doing spiritual acts" such as giving, praying, and fasting. In Jesus' day, all three of the spiritual or religious acts were important parts of their worship, but were also used by some to make themselves look better in front of others.

Jesus warned that a pure heart has the proper motivation of worship. Not to be seen by others as super spiritual as some were in the habit of doing. But to be seen by God as giving of themselves with a contrite, suppliant heart.

### **4. In the video lesson, Dusty mentioned that the current status of your heart has a lot to do with your view about God. If you feel comfortable, briefly discuss where your heart is right now and how that impacts your view of God.**

This is a great opportunity for your whole group to share. It may help if you, as the leader, are transparent and willing to share. Encourage your group members as some may share that they are in low places, while others share, they feel that they're doing pretty good. Everyone will have differing answers. Remember, no snap judgment or quick fixes.

### **5. Dusty also said, "When your thoughts and motives are whole, you can begin to 'see God' more clearly; His way and His will." Read Romans 12:1-2. How does this verse describe what a clearer vision of God looks like?**

When we have had our minds renewed and hearts transformed to God's way of thinking, we have a much easier time with God's perspective of other people and the way he intended our relationships and handling of different situations and circumstances. His ways are different, higher, than our ways. His thoughts higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). He always has the best in mind for each of us. As we are transformed and renewed to his ways of thinking, our ways become more aligned with his ways of doing and thinking.

**6. Read Psalm 24:3-6. How are these verses similar to Jesus' words in Matthew 5:8? What are some of the things that the "pure in heart" do in these verses?**

Psalm 24:3-6 reads, "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god."