

Session 6: Matthew 5:8

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: Being pure in heart is not about being perfect but being honest and transparent before God and others.

Head Change: To know that the pure in heart don't hide from God when in distress but run to him.

Heart Change: To feel confident that God welcomes us with grace when we turn to him.

Life Change: To run to God, practicing ongoing confession and repentance before him and others.

OPEN

What's your favorite social media platform? Do you think people or accounts you follow give a real depiction of their lives? Why, or why not?

Honesty is difficult. We don't want people to see our flaws or even that we may not be as exciting, stylish, or happy as the people around us. So, instead of being honest, it can be much easier to tell people we are "doing fine."

When it comes to our relationship with God, we may think that honesty is the last thing he wants from us. He wants us to obey him, be righteous, and live like Jesus. We fail so often that we assume honesty will only hurt our relationship with him. But when Jesus commands us to be “pure in heart,” he is not after perfection. He wants honesty—an undivided heart rather than a high-powered resume. In this session, we’ll learn that being pure in heart is an invitation to come into the presence of God just as we are.

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[illegible]

What steps could this small group take to become more accountable and transparent with one another? What could help you continue to grow as a community that gives mercy to one another?

LAST WORD

The pure in heart are not perfect people. The pure in heart are those who exercise honesty and transparency before God, knowing that to hide from God is to hide the very thing we need most—his mercy. So, we run to him, especially in our distress. And as we do so, God welcomes us into his presence with love and grace.

GO DEEPER

The Go Deeper section has two potential functions. It can supplement your small group discussion by providing extra discussion material. We've highlighted a place where the following segment could fit in the Discuss section of the study guide.

But you can also use this section as a short devotional to carry you through the week until your next group meeting. Consider reading this section to deepen your study of the Beatitudes.

1. *Shame: Covering and Hiding*

The first time we witness the occurrence of shame in the biblical narrative is in Genesis 3, right after Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's command. Prior to their fateful bite of fruit, they existed in a world free of shame. But now, after their bellies were filled with forbidden fruit, shame became their reality.

Read Genesis 3:6–10.

Immediately after eating the fruit from the forbidden tree, Adam and Eve were ashamed, hiding themselves from God and their bodies from one another. **How does our shame cause us to cover ourselves and hide from God?**

you have to earn or something given? In what ways do you feel like God is waiting for you to be pure?

Read John 15:1–8 again, this time more slowly, stopping verse by verse to contemplate the passage word by word.

Jesus repeatedly commands us to abide in him. **What do you think it looks like to abide in Christ as you go through your daily routine?**

In this analogy, we need Jesus as much as a branch needs to be connected to a vine. **What happens to a branch when it is cut off? What does it look like when we aren't abiding in Jesus, cut off from him in our everyday lives?**

Read John 15:1–8 once more, this time prayerfully,
asking that God would apply his Word to your heart.

In order to flourish, we have to be connected to Jesus all day. Reading and memorizing Scripture, regular prayer, and considering his view when making decisions are great ways to abide in him. **What specific habits and practices can you adopt to abide more in Christ?**

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RightNow Presents The Beatitudes
STUDY GUIDE

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