

Beatitudes Lesson Six: Blessed are the Pure in Heart

(adapted from a lesson by Tara Lynch at ministry-to-children.com)

Props: Pictures of fresh snow, clean water, and gold. A bottle of water and a cup of sand, for an object lesson.

Large Group

This is our sixth week in the Beatitudes. What does “Beatitude” mean? It means “blessed.” Who gave the Beatitudes? Jesus. Through the Beatitudes, Jesus shows us what life in God’s kingdom looks like. These paint a picture of a life lived for God, a life that God blesses.

Who can say the first five Beatitudes from memory? (Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven; Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted; Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth; Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for these shall be filled; Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.)

The Beatitudes are “Be attitudes” from Jesus. These are attitudes that God desires to see in His children. We are working on embracing these attitudes in our lives.

[Pray]

1. Read Matthew 5:1-12.
2. What is the sixth Beatitude? (Blessed are the pure in heart.)
3. What does pure mean? [Water and sand demonstration.]
4. To be pure means to be not contaminated, not mixed with any other substance. Pure water, pure snow, pure gold. What else can be pure?
5. When Jesus says “pure in heart” he means to be focused on God. Who God is and what God wants is most important in our lives.
6. Have volunteer write “focused on God” next to “pure in heart” on board.

Table Discussion

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-7. The Lord sent Samuel to Jesse, to have Samuel anoint one of Jesse's son to be king of Israel. Eliab was the oldest son. He was probably tall, muscular and handsome. When Samuel saw him, he was very impressed.
2. In verse 7, what did the Lord say He looks at when making judgments about a person? (He looks at their heart.)
3. Which do you think gives you a better understanding of what a person is like: a. their physical appearance (hair style, eye color, height, etc.) or their heart (their attitudes, how they speak, how they treat others, etc.)? Why?
4. Read Psalm 139:1-4. According to this Scripture, how well does God know us? (He knows everything about us – our thoughts, words, deeds, habits.)
5. How does it make you feel to think that God knows everything that is inside your heart?
6. Read 1 John 1:7-9. According to this Scripture, what purifies us from sin? (The blood of Jesus, shed on the cross.)
7. What do we need to do to be cleansed of our sin? (Confess our sins to God and trust Him to forgive us for Jesus' sake.)
8. How have you seen God change your heart through your faith in Jesus?
9. What sinful thoughts or attitudes would you like God to wash away from you today? Will you bring those things to Him?

Craft/Activity

PURE IN HEART CRAFT

“What’s Inside My Heart”

Materials:

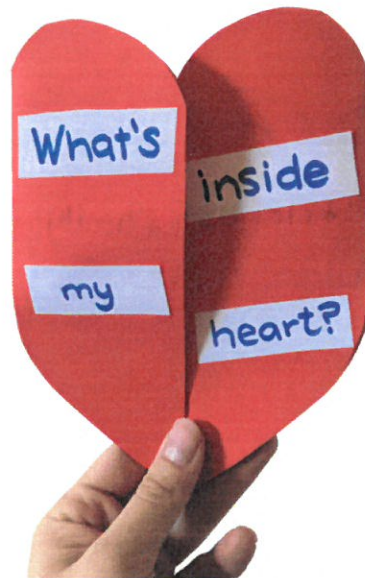
Red Construction Paper

White Paper

Scissors

Glue stick

Markers



‘WHAT’S INSIDE MY HEART?’ CRAFT

Instructions:

1. With your paper in landscape view, fold the sides of the page into the center of the page, creating three parts.
2. Fold the whole page in half – lightly so that the crease is not too deep.
3. From the center of the page, measure and mark a few centimeters from the top of the page then cut the two edges of the heart to meet into the middle where your mark was made.
4. At the bottom of the page use scissors to cut the point of the heart to meet in the middle of the bottom edge.
5. Cut four slips of white paper and stick them with glue to the front of your heart (as pictured).
6. Open up your heart and write down or draw all the good things that you have in your heart, or that you would want God to see.