

GROWTH GROUPS

January 20, 2012

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

Conversation Starter -

Have you ever had the experience of “having your eyes opened?” Maybe, you thought a certain way or had a certain understanding for a long time before something happened to “enlighten” you. Talk about what this experience was like. What kept you from seeing for so long? What feelings surfaced as you began to live into this new understanding?

Understanding -

When Jesus promises that the “pure in heart” will “see God” he speaks of experiencing God in such a way as to feel like he is right with you. Again, as with all of the beatitudes, this is an action we take not to earn God’s favor, but to reflect his image that already resides in us. It is proof that we truly belong to Him.

1. Read Romans 1:21, 2:5, 5:5 and Jeremiah 17:9 and develop a biblical definition of the word heart as a group. How does this definition speak to what Jesus requires in this beatitude?
2. Recognizing that we cannot purify our own hearts how does Ezekiel 36:26 speak to the hope we have in the gospel? In other words, what does Jesus have to do with giving us a new heart?
3. Though it is God who gives us a new heart, we are responsible to nurture that heart in order that it may become more and more pure before God. Read John 14:21 and 1 John 3:2-4 and talk about how we can develop more pure hearts in pursuit of God. What are specific areas of your life for which the members of your group can pray and help you develop a more pure heart? Be careful of the trap! God literally stood in front of the Pharisees, yet many of them could still not see him. Why not?

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