



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE April 25

BIBLE PASSAGE Matthew 5:8

### 1. KNOW THE CONTEXT

Matthew chapters 5-7 are a collection of Jesus' most important teachings about how life with God really works.

This collection of teachings is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus begins this sermon with a list of blessings that outline what makes a person truly blessed as they follow Jesus. This list can be a little confusing because some of them don't seem like blessings. So we will discuss how this list of blessings actually set up the frame work for a truly happy and blessed life.

Tonight we will spend time talking about why those who are pure in heart are blessed.

### 2. READ THE BIBLE PASSAGE TOGETHER

### 3. SPEND TIME IN OBSERVATION

Which verses, ideas, or characters stuck out to you?  
What questions could come from this passage?

Observation notes:

Questions:

## 4. SPEND TIME IN INTERPRETATION

What did this passage mean to the original audience?

What would it have felt like to be a character in this passage, and who in the passage is the hero/role model (if any)?

What's the main point of this passage?

Questions	Answers
Take some time and talk about the word "PURITY."	How do we use this word? What does it mean for us? Is it a word that we see as positive or negative?
Take some time and discuss what "purity of heart" means.	Help students see that the purity of our heart has implications for our intentions, our purpose, our follow through in faith, life, and relationships.
What is the benefit of being pure in heart?	Jesus is showing us that those who pursue purity begin to see the world differently. They are able to look past cliché's and go after what is real. They are able to leave behind distractions and pursue what God has for their life.
When we have a pure heart what does that do for our relationships?	It helps us be vulnerable because we know that God loves us for who we are. It produces empathy in us because we know that we are imperfect and all of us need grace. It helps us not to victimize people and respect them as God does.
How does having a pure heart help us see God differently?	It helps us to remember that we are loved and accepted by Him. It also encourages us to stay faithful to Him because his way of life is so much better than any alternative.

## 5. SPEND TIME IN APPLICATION

What is the "universal truth" God wants to teach us from this passage?

How can we apply the message of this passage to our daily lives?

What are some steps to take this week to grow in our purity?

Who do we know that seems to have a pure heart, and how can we connect with them?

What is one result you want to see in your life from pursuing purity?

## 6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: