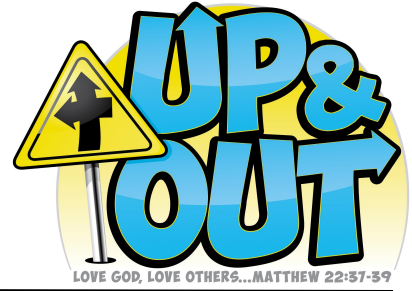


The Beatitudes

Huddle 7 – *God blessed those whose hearts are pure*



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the “In” slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions up front...

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

- Is there anything new happening in your life?
- Can you think of anything that makes you feel that you are blessed?
- Are you feeling thankful for anything in particular?
- Did you have anything to share about having been shown mercy or showing someone else mercy this week?

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group.

LESSON HUDDLE

Let’s all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out! Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

Does anyone think that after these past six weeks of learning about the Beatitudes that you are starting to have less of a “me attitude” and more of a “be attitude”? (*Allow children to respond*) Do you think anyone else is noticing? Maybe your parents, siblings, or friends?

Today we are going to learn the most central and significant of all the Beatitudes. First, can anyone remember what book of the Bible we have been learning from these past several weeks? (*Allow children to answer*) Yes, Matthew chapter 5 is where we have been learning from. Everyone please get out your Bibles. Turn to Matthew 5: 1-12. Buddy up with the person beside you and try to figure out which verse are learning about today. Once you are

sure you know which one, raise your hand. *(Call on people until someone reads the correct verse)* That's right! Verse 8, "God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God." This is the most significant of all the Beatitudes because you cannot be poor in spirit without having a pure heart. You cannot mourn for things that please God without having a pure heart. You cannot be humble, you cannot hunger and thirst for justice, and you cannot be merciful without having a pure heart.

So, let's discuss what it means to be pure and to have a pure heart. *(Write "pure heart" on the dry-erase board)* What does pure mean? *(Allow children to answer)* Pure means not contaminated or mixed with any other substance. I have a demonstration to help you understand purity a little better.

Materials:

- Unopened bottle of water
- 3 spoons of sand/dirt in a clear cup
- Spoon

I have an unopened bottle of water. *(Show the children)* This is 100% pure water and is safe for me to drink. *(Open the water bottle and take a drink. Take out a clear cup of sand/dirt and add a few spoons to the water bottle. Put the lid back on and shake.)* Is the water safe and good for me to drink now? *(Show the children)* Of course not! The water is no longer pure. It has been contaminated by sand/dirt. This contaminated bottle of water is like our hearts when we fill our lives with things other than God. God is like the pure water; therefore, a pure heart is one that is focused on God and not filled with the stuff of this world. *(On the board next to "pure heart," write "focused only on God")*

Why does Jesus tell us that the pure in heart are blessed? Why not say the pure in thoughts, or the pure in works? Let's turn to the Bible to find out. We're going to do a sword drill for this next verse. Take your Bible and hold it above your head. When I say "go", look up 1 Samuel 16:7. Ready! Set! Go! *(Read passage out loud)*

This passage refers to when God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint the new king. Samuel didn't know it would be David, he just knew it would be one of Jesse's sons. The verse is referring to one of David's older and stronger brothers. You see, the way people in the world look at others is different than how God looks at people. People tend to judge others on how

they look, what they do, and what they say. But God doesn't judge us based on what we do or what we look like on the outside, He goes right into our hearts. He knows the secrets that we don't tell anyone. He knows our greatest fears and what embarrasses us the most. He knows how we do good things for wrong reasons and how we do bad things while thinking we have good reasons. God knows us better than we know ourselves. The idea that God sees all of our heart is kind of scary. We may think that God will be angry or disgusted with how impure our hearts are. But you know what? We do not disgust God. He knows that we are sinners and that our hearts are impure, but He loves us just as we are. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for us.

Our Beatitude today tells us that only the pure in heart will get to see God, but the Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NLT) that ²⁰ "Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins." So if no one is good and pure in heart, how can anyone ever get to see God? Let me explain. We can never do anything to make ourselves pure on our own. We can't go to church enough, read the Bible enough, or pray enough to be made pure for God. There is only one thing that will cleanse our hearts of all sins and that is the blood of Jesus. *(Draw an arrow from "pure heart" to "Jesus saves")* We can only know and believe that God loved us so much that He had His son take the punishment for our sins to make us pure. Therefore, we should confess to Him that we are sinners, and do our best to live pure lives that are focused on God and what He wants us to do.

What does it mean to see God? Will He just show up one day in the distance when you are playing outside? I don't think so. Think of it like this, when you go to visit your grandparents you tell your friends that you are going to see your grandma and grandpa. By see, you mean you are going to talk to them, laugh with them, and hug them. You don't mean that you will go to their house to just look at them. This is the "see" that Jesus means when He says, "God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God." When we let Jesus purify our hearts we get to go where God is and spend forever with Him as our Savior.

To finish up our huddle, let's spend a few moments listing on the board the things that can fill up our hearts to make them impure. *(In a large heart on the board write God. In the rest of the heart write sins and distractions the children suggest)* That is a good list of things that cause us to have an impure heart. We want to follow God, but things like homework, sports, and grumbling about doing chores distract us. Our hearts can even become impure by good things if we let those good things become more important than God. Doing homework and sports are good things, but if they become more important to us than our relationship with God, then our hearts become impure. The only thing that should be permanently in our hearts is God. *(As you say this, erase everything in the heart except God)* In order to see God and spend all of forever with Him, we must become pure in heart and free from distraction by following Jesus.

Huddle Up, Pray, & Break

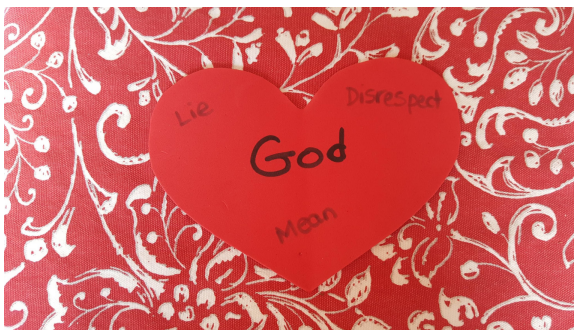
ACTIVITY: Craft

Materials:

- Red craft foam heart (1 per child)
- Washable markers (1 set per bin)
- Black Sharpie (3-4 per bin)
- Big bowl of water with dish soap (wipes work too) (1 per bin)
- Wash cloth (3-4 per bin)
- Paper Towels (1 roll per bin)

Directions:

- Give the children a red foam heart. Have them use a black Sharpie to write “God” on their heart. Explain they should always have God in their heart to keep their heart pure.
- Have the children take a washable marker and scribble on their heart (younger kids) or write their sins on the heart. Explain that we are sinners and will always sin.
- Have the children clean the hearts by washing them in the soapy water. Explain to the children that by asking God into their hearts and asking Him for forgiveness their hearts can be cleaned of sin.
- On the back, write today’s Beatitude.





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