

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: MARCH 7-13, 2026

SERIES INFO

Upside Down

Most of us already know what the good life looks like in our culture... success, comfort, confidence, control. We don't have to be taught what to chase; we're already running. In the opening lines of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus disrupts all of it. He blesses weakness, grief, humility, mercy, purity, peacemaking, and faithfulness under pressure... qualities we usually avoid, ignore, or see as setbacks. This series slows us down long enough to notice the gap between what we chase and what Jesus calls blessed. Not to pressure people. Not to shame people. But to help people see clearly. Each week, we'll unpack one of Jesus' statements and let it confront our assumptions about the good life... one attitude at a time.

PERSONAL FUN FACTS

- What is one weird or random talent you have?

TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest "takeaways" you had from the message this week on "God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God?"

DISCUSSION

1. Getting to the Heart

Scripture: Matthew 5:8; Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18-19, Jeremiah 17:9

The Bible teaches us that the heart is the control center of life. This is why God is so interested in transforming our hearts, for everything flows from the heart: our words, actions, decisions, and character. Jesus says that what defiles us comes from within. The deepest problem we have is not how to manage our behavior, but how to surrender our hearts to Christ.

1) Why do you think it is easier for people to manage outward behavior than to deal with the condition of their heart?

2) What are some ways people today try to appear good on the outside while ignoring what is happening internally?

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2. Does Pure Mean Perfect?

Scripture: Psalm 24:3-4; James 4:8

The Greek word for pure is *katharos*, which means: clean, unmixed, undivided, and single-focused. Just like pure gold is without any kind of contamination, a pure heart is one that isn't mixed with competing loyalties. Biblical purity does not mean moral perfection. If it did, none of us would ever qualify as being "pure in heart." Purity, in this understanding, means to have an undivided devotion and loyalty toward God. A divided heart is one that has its loyalty split between our desire for God and also having a desire ourselves for a place at the control center with things like our own status, comfort, decisions, and even the management of our own sin.

1) What are the things that want to compete for our heart's loyalty today?

2) When do you most notice your heart becoming divided or distracted from God?

3. What's It Like To See God?

Scripture: Psalm 73:1; 1 John 3:2-3

Can you imagine what it will be like to see the Creator God? Humans can hardly fathom that and yet this is the promise of Jesus. Think about this promise unfolding in three ways: 1) we see God in a spiritual way right now. A pure heart recognizes God's presence and goodness in everyday life, 2) We see God relationally because we know Jesus. The closer our hearts are aligned with Christ, the more we experience His presence, and 3) We will see God fully in eternity when the final fulfillment of the kingdom of God brings us to the moment when we will have direct vision of God as He dwells us and we with Him.

) How have you seen God in everyday life?

2) Have you experienced a time in your life when you sensed God more clearly? What do you think contributed to that?

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3) What do you think it will be like to see God “face to face” ... “as He is”? (Take some time to think about this question ... it is so incredible to wonder what it will be like to gaze upon His glory, but it is good for us to get a glimpse of this in our souls as it gives us great hope for what is to come.)

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- If God looked directly at the center of your heart today, what would He see you loving the most?
- Name what you've been hiding. This week, I realize I can't manage it or minimize it. I just need to name it (habit, resentment, compromise, etc.)
- Invite Jesus into the part you've kept off-limits. Most of us have given Jesus access to 80% of our lives. What's in the 20%? Spend some moments in silence and surrender the other 20%.

PRAYER

Lord ...

Create in me a clean heart.

Remove the distractions and divided loyalties that pull me away from You.

Help me to love You with an undivided heart so that I might see your presence more clearly in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.