



Lesson 15

Pure Hearts See God

Intermediate Small Group Lesson

Bible Story

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Bible Verse

“God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.”

Matthew 5:8, *New Living Translation*

Materials

- Name tags
- Snacks
- How Are You Feeling? emoji chart
- A small box (with the top open)
filled with a trinket or treat for each
child

Key Teaching Point

Receive a pure heart.



Small Group Session 1 (15 Minutes)

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" emoji chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- As the students are eating their snacks, ask, "**Who helps you stay on the right track? How do they keep you from doing something wrong?**"

Pray Together

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

Small Group Game: Can't See!

Preparation: Fill a small box with trinkets or treats for kids, keeping the top open.

Keep the box too high for them to see inside. Point and tell the kids that there is something special inside of it and ask if they would like to see the contents. Allow kids to jump around to try to see in the box.

Ask:

- **How does it make you feel when you cannot see something you would really like to see?**
- **Can you think of a time when you haven't been able to see something you really want to see?**

Small Group Session 2 (35 Minutes)

Life Application Activity

Remember the game of opposites that we played during large group time? Let's play this game again, but now let's think of opposites that apply to our own lives. For example, if the challenge word was lying, what do you think the opposite would be?

Take student responses.

That's right! The opposite of lying would be telling the truth! Let's try a few more together.



Read from the following actions and behaviors below and ask students to respond with the opposite behavior or action. The suggested opposites are noted in parentheses; however, some students may have some other suggestions that fit as well.

- **Stealing** (giving generously)
- **Lying** (telling the truth)
- **Bullying** (showing kindness)
- **Hitting** (showing care for others)
- **Getting angry** (showing forgiveness)
- **Selfishness** (putting others first)
- **Worrying** (trusting God)

Now I have a question for all of you. Do you think it's possible to change our lives all on our own?

Take student responses.

God doesn't ask us to do it alone. Zacchaeus needed to meet Jesus and experience his kindness and love before his heart was changed. The same is true for us: we need to meet and encounter Jesus too! God's love revealed to us through Jesus is so powerful that it can transform our hearts and lives.

Receive the Gift!

Prayer: A two-way conversation with God.

Some kids have trouble obeying their parents. Others might struggle to be kind to others. Others might keep messing up by saying things they shouldn't.

If you are willing, share with students an area in your own life where you need God to change your heart, and how you've talked to God about it.

We all need Jesus to help us live a life that is pleasing to God. We can pray and ask for his help. You can share out loud if you would like, or you can pray quietly.

After a moment of silent prayer, lead students in a prayer together.

Bible Verse Game

Review the Bible verse with a [Bible verse game](#).

“God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.”

Matthew 5:8, New Living Translation



Reflection

Give each child their reflection journal. Invite them to reflect on the following questions and to record their answers in their journal. They may also draw their responses if they wish:

1. What gift can I receive from God?
2. How can this gift impact my life?

