

Unit 2: Be-Attitudes

Lesson 2.6: Pure in Heart

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 5:8; Psalm 51:10

Activities:

**Choose based on time available. Instructions and supplies listed below.*

Activity 1: "Heart Window" Sun-catcher Craft

Activity 2: "Outside vs. Inside" Surprise Boxes

Words of the week:

սուրբ - soorp - holy, pure

սիրտ - seerd - heart

տեսնել - des-nel - to see

Objective:

Students will learn that being pure in heart means loving God sincerely and choosing what is good on the inside, not just on the outside. They will understand that God cares about our thoughts, choices, and intentions.

Moral Character Focus:

Knowledge: Students will learn that a pure heart means wanting to do what is right and good.

Understanding: Students will understand that God looks at our hearts, not only our actions.

Application: Students will practice purity of heart by choosing honest thoughts, kind intentions, and loving actions.

Values: Honesty, sincerity, self-control, love for God.

Memory Verse:

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

- Matthew 5:8

Lesson

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն:

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Lesson Body: Pure in Heart

During His sermon on the mount, Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Jesus teaches us that God cares about what is happening inside us. A pure heart is not about being perfect. It is about wanting to love God and do what is right. When our hearts are pure, we grow closer to God and learn to see Him in our lives.

But what does pure in heart mean? Being pure in heart means wanting good things inside your heart. It means choosing honest thoughts instead of sneaky ones. It means wanting to obey God, even when no one is watching.

When you try to be kind for the right reason, your heart becomes purer. When you choose truth instead of lying, your heart stays clean. When you forgive someone who hurt you, your heart grows softer. When you think about what is good and lovely, your heart becomes more beautiful.

A pure heart wants to please God and love others. A pure heart is like a clear window that lets God’s light shine through.

Long ago, God decided it was time to choose a new king for Israel. The current king, Saul, had stopped obeying God. His heart had turned away from doing what was right.

God sent the prophet Samuel to the house of a man named Jesse who lived in Bethlehem. God told Samuel, “I have chosen one of Jesse’s sons to be the next king.”

Samuel was nervous. What if King Saul found out? But Samuel trusted God and went to Bethlehem.

Jesse had many sons, and Samuel thought the strongest and tallest would surely be the one God wanted. After all, a king should look impressive and powerful, right?

One by one, Jesse brought his sons before Samuel.

First came Eliab, the oldest. He was tall and handsome. Samuel looked at him and thought, “Surely this is the one God has chosen!”

But God said to Samuel, “No. Do not look at how tall he is or how handsome he appears. I have not chosen him.”

Then came Abinadab. He was strong and looked like a warrior. But God said, “Not this one either.”

Next came Shammah. He seemed brave and confident. But again, God said no.

One by one, seven of Jesse’s sons passed before Samuel. Each son looked impressive. Some were tall. Some were strong. Some looked like leaders. But each time, God said no.

Samuel was confused. He asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

Jesse answered, “There is still the youngest, David, but he is out in the fields taking care of the sheep. I did not think you would want to see him.”

“Send for him at once,” Samuel said. “We will not sit down until he arrives.”

So they sent for David. He came running in from the fields. His clothes were dusty from working outdoors. His hands smelled like sheep. He did not look like a king at all. He was young and small compared to his older brothers.

But something was different about David. While he was out in the fields, David sang songs to God. He talked to God like a friend. He trusted God to help him protect the sheep from lions and bears. David's heart was full of love for God, even when no one else was watching.

When David stood before Samuel, God said, "Rise and anoint him. This is the one."

Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers. From that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David.

God chose David not because of his size or strength, not because of his appearance or his age, but because David had a pure heart that loved God.

David was not perfect. Later in his life, David would make serious mistakes. He would sin and hurt others. But whenever David did wrong, his heart always wanted to return to God. He was truly sorry. He would pray and ask God to forgive him and make his heart clean again.

David wrote many psalms, which are songs and prayers to God. In one psalm, after David had done something very wrong, he prayed:

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew in me an upright spirit."

David knew that only God could make his heart truly clean. He knew that a pure heart was more valuable than anything else in the world.

This story teaches us that God is not looking for perfect people. God is looking for hearts that want to love Him and choose what is good. God looks at our hearts, and He wants them to be clean and full of love.

Just like David, we can ask God every day to help us have pure hearts. We can talk to God, love Him, and try to do what is right, even when no one else is watching.



Words of the Week:

սուրբ - soorp - holy, pure

սիրտ - seerd - heart

տեսնել - des-nel - to see

Memory Verse:

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

- Matthew 5:8

Activity 1: “Heart Window” Sun-catcher Craft

Materials: Clear contact paper or laminating sheets, tissue paper in various colors (light colors work best), scissors, black construction paper, string or ribbon.

Instructions:

1. Cut black construction paper into a heart shape frame (like a window frame with the center cut out).
2. Cut one piece of contact paper slightly larger than the heart frame.
3. Peel the backing off the contact paper and lay it sticky side up.
4. Let children place small pieces of tissue paper on the sticky contact paper to “fill” the heart window with beautiful colors.
5. Place another piece of contact paper on top to seal it.
6. Attach the black heart frame over the tissue paper.
7. Punch a hole at the top and add string to hang in a window.

As children work, explain: “A pure heart is like a clear, beautiful window that lets God’s light shine through.”

Connection: When our hearts are pure, God’s love and light can shine through us to others. The beautiful colors remind us of all the good things God wants to fill our hearts with.

Activity 2: “Outside vs. Inside” Surprise Boxes

Materials: Small boxes or paper bags, plain wrapping paper or brown paper, markers, stickers, small treats or encouraging notes to put inside.

Instructions:

1. Give each child a plain-looking box wrapped in brown paper or a plain bag.
2. Inside each box, place something beautiful: a kind note, a small treat, stickers, or a smooth stone with “Pure Heart” written on it.
3. Before opening, let children decorate the outside however they want.
4. Then have children open their boxes to discover the surprise inside.

Discuss: “God does not look at what we look like on the outside. He looks at what is inside our hearts. What matters most is having a heart that loves God.”

Learning Point: Just like these boxes had something special inside, God looks at what is inside our hearts. We can choose to fill our hearts with love, kindness, and truth.



Review

Memory Verse Review:

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

Words of the Week Review:

սուրբ - soorp - holy, pure

սիրտ - seerd - heart

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Lesson Review Questions:

1. What does it mean to be pure in heart? (*Wanting to love God and do what is right; choosing good thoughts and honest actions*)
2. Why did God choose David to be king instead of his older brothers? (*Because David had a pure heart that loved God, not because of how he looked*)
3. What did God say to Samuel about how He chooses people? (*People look at the outside, but God looks at the heart*)
4. Was David perfect and never made mistakes? (*No, but his heart always wanted to return to God and do what was right*)
5. How can we keep our hearts pure? (*By choosing honesty, being kind, forgiving others, talking to God, and obeying Him even when no one is watching*)

Life Application

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Having a pure heart is like keeping a garden free from weeds. Every day, we make choices that either keep our hearts clean or fill them with wrong thoughts and feelings. When we choose to be honest, to forgive, to be kind, and to think about good things, our hearts stay pure. When we talk to God and ask Him to help us, He makes our hearts clean and beautiful. God does not care if we are the tallest, the strongest, or the smartest. He cares about our hearts. And the wonderful promise Jesus gives us is that those who have pure hearts will see God.

* *Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.