

WEEK ELEVEN

O THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE PURE IN HEART —THEY SHALL SEE GOD

BIG IDEA

JESUS LOOKS AT OUR HEARTS,

not what is on the outside. When we have a pure heart we see God more easily.

PREP

- Set up some skittles (or some old bottles and tins) and find a ball.
- Smear a pair of cheap child's sunglasses (or old glasses) with cream or dirt.
- Mix 4 tbsp vinegar and 1 tsp salt in a small bowl.
- Fill two drinking glasses with water - use mud or dust to make one dirty.

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- A dirty 10 cent copper coin for each person.
- A paper towel or old cloth.
- The sunglasses (or reading glasses) smeared with cream or mud.



INTRO

We have a game of skittles here and we are going to see who is the most accurate and can hit the most skittles. But you must wear something while you are playing this!

OUT OF THE BOX

- Take out the dirty sunglasses. Choose a child with clean hands to put them on. Then see how many skittles they can knock down while wearing the glasses. When everyone has had a turn wearing the dirty glasses and throwing the ball, wash the glasses until they are clean, and give each person a second turn wearing the clean glasses.

This week's Beatitude is "*Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.*"

How easy was it to see the skittles when you had the dirty glasses on?

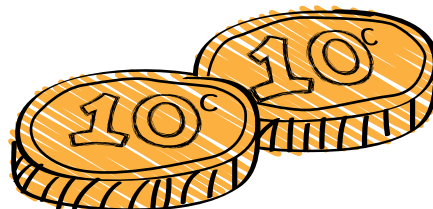
Being pure in heart means that we love God with all our hearts and are careful to not let a lot of other things block Him out.

What do you think might get in the way of loving God?

- Bring out the glass of clean water and the glass of muddied water.

Look at these two glasses. **Who would want to drink the dirty one?** Now just imagine if you had a lovely new sports car or motor bike – would you put dirty fuel in it? Or would you want good clean fuel to make it run fast and well?

Can you think of some things like the dirty water (or bad fuel) that dirty our hearts so they are not pure, and keep us away from God? Who wants to have a heart that's clean like this glass of water?



Well Jesus told us we keep our hearts clean by loving God and filling our minds with those things that are lovely and honourable and good. What are some good things we can fill our minds with?

The more we fill our hearts and minds with good things, the more it is like pure clean water flowing into us. Pure water keeps us clean on the inside. Jesus tells us to stay away from evil and wrong thoughts, bad language and selfish actions. These are the things that make us dirty on the inside.

READ

- Take out the dirty ten cent coins.

Give the oldest coin to the oldest person, and continue to match coins and ages down to the newest coin to the youngest child. Let each person drop their coin into the vinegar and salt solution.

- Leave the coins there while you read.

This is the true story of a young girl who wanted to have a pure heart for God.

“ Amy Carmichael grew up in a wealthy home in Ireland. When she was a small girl, she wished so much that she had been born with blue eyes instead of the brown ones she saw when she looked in the mirror. She did not know that one day, when she was much older, God would use her brown eyes for a very special

mission. Sadly, when Amy was 18, her father's business collapsed and he became sick and died. Her family was no longer privileged and Amy had to leave her good school to help her mother take care of her younger brothers and sisters. One day as she was walking home from church young Amy saw a beggar in rags and, with her brother, helped him down the alley. But when some other people from church went past, she was embarrassed that they had seen her with the beggar.

She wondered to herself why she felt so embarrassed, and realised that when she helped others she shouldn't be ashamed. She knew that someone with a pure heart would not feel that way. So Amy went home and promised God that from then on she would only do things that pleased Him and she would not worry about what others thought. Later when she saw a child begging, she also promised God that when she grew up she would give all her money to the poor. Her kind heart led people in her church to care for the local mill girls called 'shawlies' and Amy soon moved into their community to help build a church.

But Amy knew that God wanted her to do more and felt called to tell people in other countries about God. At first she was turned down, because it was difficult work and she had a recurring sickness which made her ●●●●

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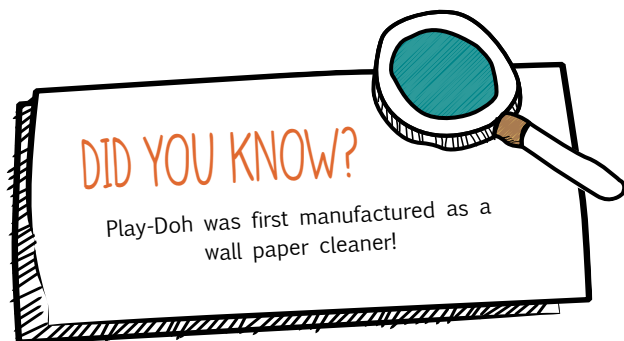
weak and tired. But she didn't give up, and eventually travelled to India, where she worked for over 56 years. During that time Amy told everyone she could about Jesus and gave shelter and safety to many, many women.

While she was in India she realised that God had a reason for giving her brown eyes. She was able to rescue thousands of poor children who were abused or had been left as temple offerings. She could do it without being noticed because her brown eyes meant that she looked just like the local people, so she could slip in and out of places to rescue children. She became known as "Amma" or "mother" to them all. Over the years Amy built a school for the children as well as a hospital, a house of prayer, and training facilities. Her pure heart helped her see God in her work, and in those He called her to serve – the poor of India. ””

FAMILY TALK TIME

- Take out the coins and let everyone wipe their own coin clean with the paper towel.

They look completely different don't they?



God wants to make us clean and shiny inside by making our hearts pure. No matter how dirty we feel, if we ask Him, God will make us clean and give us pure hearts. He doesn't want us dirtied by what we do or what we think.

It's easy to shine a coin, but the amazing thing about the way God cleans us is that He does it from the inside.

How does God clean our hearts?

Brainstorm together to identify some things that are good for our hearts and will make us pure

Honesty

Unselfishness

Being Forgiving

Loving others

Reading God's word

Watching good movies, TV programmes and computer games

Reading good books

Going to church and learning about God

Write down things that will dirty our hearts, and keep us away from God.

Being mean and greedy

Bad language

Wrong thoughts

Pride

Saying unkind things about others

Watching bad movies, tv programmes or bad computer games

Listening to music with bad words

Reading books or magazines that have bad things in them

☺ FIX YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT IS TRUE, AND HONOURABLE, AND RIGHT, AND PURE, AND LOVELY, AND ADMIRABLE. THINK ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT AND WORTHY OF PRAISE. ☺

- PHILIPPIANS 4:8 -

A heart that is pure is honest and unselfish. It forgives and loves others. It is what we choose to focus on that makes the difference –good or bad; clean or dirty.

It is up to us to choose what we allow into our hearts, and what things we allow to stay in our hearts.

God knows what we want in our hearts, and He blesses the good intentions we have.

How does being pure in heart help us to see God better?

Learning to see God opens up His treasure trove of blessings, not only for eternity, but also for life here and now. And the key to open that treasure trove is a pure heart!

- Give everyone a cut-out paper heart

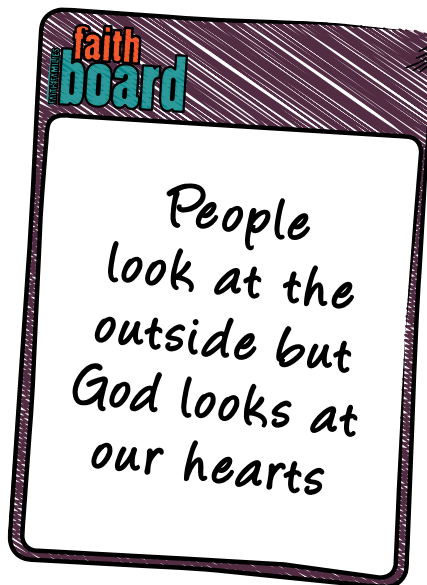
Ask them to write two things that will keep their hearts pure this week. On the other side write two things to avoid this week, so their hearts are not dirtied.

PRAY

- Invite everyone to hold their shiny coin, and their cut-out heart.
“Dear God, Please make our hearts pure in the way we love God and deal with others. Please help me to (pure heart ideas).”

LIVE

Have the children put their heart-shaped pieces of paper in a jar and during the week at dinner time read Philippians 4:8. Let each child write some more pure things to think about on their cut-out hearts.



OTHER IDEAS

- We see God when we learn to see through God's eyes. Use a camera to take photos that help you think about the way God sees the world. Share them with the family, and tell why you chose them.

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...

