



MEETING GUIDE

Session 1: God's Way is Pure

September 23 – 29, 2018

Hangout (30 Minutes)

1. Ice Breakers:
 - Share your name and where you grew up.
 - How many siblings do you have and what is your birth order?
 - Who is one of the closest friends you've ever had? Describe your relationship.
 - What drives you crazy in relationships?
2. Go through the Life Group Agreement and plans for your next meetings.

Watch the Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. We encourage groups to at least answer questions 1, 2 and 6.

1. In the sermon, Pastor Steve contrasted what we sometimes *think we want* in relationships versus what *we really want most* in relationships. Do you agree with this contrast? Why or why not?
2. Have someone read what James, the brother of Jesus, wrote,
¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. [James 3:13-18](#)
 - What strikes you as a very true statement in these verses?
 - What did you find helpful in what Pastor Steve taught from these verses?
3. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught, "Blessed are **the pure in heart**, for they will see God."
[Matthew 5:8](#)
 - What do you think it means for someone to be "pure in heart"?
 - What do you think it means to "see God"?
4. What are your thoughts about this statement, "All relationships are built on trust and trust is built on integrity."
5. Is "steady goodness" an accurate synonym for integrity in relationships? Describe steady goodness in relationships.

6. What is one next step you would like to take from this week's message and discussion?

Summary

In our relationships we sometimes confuse what we sometimes think we want with what we really want most. What we want most in relationships is what God wants most for us in our relationships. This is God's Way for our relationships. God's way for our relationships includes these characteristics: pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Integrity is God's way to be pure in our relationships. God's way of being pure refers to when we behave with integrity in our relationships. All relationships are built on trust and trust is built on integrity. "Steady goodness" is a way to understand integrity. Behaviors that reflect steady goodness in relationships include following God's personal morality commands, radical honesty, speaking kindly, and following through on our promises. As a next step, honestly determine where you are not acting with steady goodness in a relationship and change that behavior to reflect the pure way of God.

Next week we will learn that **God's Way in our relationship is considerate.**

Pray (5 Minutes)

Leader: Jesus describes the way of God for us to follow as being "pure in heart". Let us pray for God, the Holy Spirit, to move us to be pure in our relationships.

Group: Gracious Lord, thank you that you created us to be in relationships with others. Help me to understand what I want most in my relationships. Help me to honestly examine my motivations and behavior with others. Show me any thoughts, words, and behaviors that I need to stop if I want to experience what I want most in a relationship. Help me to act with steady goodness in my relationships. Amen.