



Saint James AME Church
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Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

Women's Bible Study

Rev. Janelle Y. Greene, Minister to Women
First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

June 20, 2017
Tracie Morrison, Facilitator

Subject: Growing More Holy
Scripture: Matthew 5:8; Psalm 24:1-6

Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Matthew 5:8 The Message (MSG)

⁸ "You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

Psalm 24:1-6 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹ The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to

him. ² For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths. ³ Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? ⁴ Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies. ⁵ They will receive the Lord's blessing and have a right relationship with God their savior. ⁶ Such people may seek you and worship in your presence, O God of Jacob.

Background

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus describes the traits he was looking for in his followers. He said that God blesses those who live out those traits. Each Beatitude is an almost direct contradiction of society's typical way of life. Position, authority and money are not important in his Kingdom – what matters is faithful obedience from the heart. Being blessed by God means the experience of hope and joy, independent of outward circumstances. To find hope and joy, the deepest form of happiness, follow Jesus no matter what the cost.

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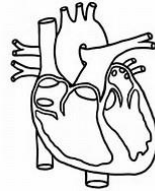
Discussion Questions:

1. Read the Matthew 5:8 (AMP). Take a moment to *examine (Psalm 139)* your “inside world”. Does it reflect God’s Kingdom or worldly kingdoms?

Mind



Heart



2. Read Psalm 24:4. What type of lies are being referred to in this verse? Why does dishonesty come so easily? How does honesty open the lines of communication with others? God?
3. Read 1 John 3:1-3. How do the children of God develop a pure heart? What do we gain from God during the process?

Making Connections

4. If we consider the Beatitudes as “a standard of conduct for all believers”, which of the nine “standards” are easier to incorporate into daily living? Challenging? Explain.

Personal Reflection:

Read: Matthew 5:8

Reflect: Only Jesus was absolutely pure in heart. Even the ideal person described in Psalm 24 must still be a sinner by nature.

Respond: On what do you rest your hope that you will “See God”?