



## **Beyond Sunday** **Sermon Study Series**

### **Engage**

***What's the closest you have come to "seeing God?"***

***Have someone briefly review what they remembered from the sermon***

### **Learn**

***Read Matthew 5:3-10, keying in on verse 8***

- 1. Who are the Pure in Heart?*
- 2. How do you think the pure in heart "see God?"*
- 3. How do you think Purity of Heart relates to the Beatitudes that come before?*
- 4. Why is seeing God reserved for the Pure in Heart?*

### **Deepen**

***Discuss this statement: "The pure in heart are not perfect in heart." Do you agree or disagree? Why?***

***The pure in heart are "not mixed up with false things." What false things do you tend to get mixed up with? What does God want to purify in your life?***

***Read the story on the back titled, "Saint Francis and Brother Leo." What does it tell you about the pure in heart and how we achieve this purity?***

### **Live**

***Read Psalm 139:23-24 then take a moment to quietly pray into this verse. Write down what God is speaking to you. Share it with the group.***

***Pray for a specific friend, neighbour, or colleague that needs to know God's love. How can you share that love in a tangible way tomorrow?***

### ***Saint Francis & Brother Leo***

One day Saint Francis and brother Leo were walking down the road. Noticing Leo was depressed, Francis turned and asked, “Leo, do you know what it means to be pure of heart?”

“Of course. It means to have no sins, faults or weaknesses to reproach myself for.”

“Ah,” said Francis, “now I understand why you're sad. We will always have something to reproach ourselves for.”

“Right,” said Leo. “That's why I despair of ever arriving at purity of heart.”

“Leo, listen carefully to me. Don't be so preoccupied with the purity of your heart. Turn and look at Jesus. Admire Him. Rejoice that He is what He is—your Brother, your Friend, your Lord and Savior. That, little brother, is what it means to be pure of heart. And once you've turned to Jesus, don't turn back and look at yourself. Don't wonder where you stand with Him.”

“The sadness of not being perfect, the discovery that you really are sinful, is a feeling much too human, even borders on idolatry. Focus your vision outside yourself, on the beauty, graciousness and compassion of Jesus Christ. The pure of heart praise Him from sunrise to sundown.”

“Even when they feel broken, feeble, distracted, insecure and uncertain, they are able to release it into His peace. A heart like that is stripped and filled—stripped of self and filled with the fullness of God. It is enough that Jesus is Lord.”

After a long pause, Leo said, “Still, Francis, the Lord demands our effort and fidelity.”

“No doubt about that,” replied Francis. “But holiness is not a personal achievement. It's an emptiness you discover in yourself. Instead of resenting it, you accept it and it becomes the free space where the Lord can create anew. To cry out, ‘You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,’ that is what it means to be pure of heart. And it doesn't come by your Herculean efforts and threadbare resolutions.”

“Then how?” asked Leo.

“Simply hoard nothing of yourself; sweep the house clean. Sweep out even the attic, even the nagging, painful consciousness of your past. Accept being shipwrecked. Renounce everything that is heavy, even the weight of your sins. See only the compassion, the infinite patience and the tender love of Christ. Jesus is Lord. That suffices. Your guilt and reproach disappear into the nothingness of non-attention. Even the desire for holiness is transformed into a pure and simple desire for Jesus.”

Leo listened gravely as he walked along beside Francis. Step by step he felt his heart grow lighter as a profound peace flooded his soul.