

**LifeGroup Study Sheet**May 19<sup>th</sup> – Family Matters: The Heart Matters

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

**Quick Review**

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

**Introduction**

One of the common phrases of our society is "how things are perceived is reality." This has become more and more used as technology and social media have become more prevalent. Explain what this means, and do you agree?

**Digging In**

**Question 1: Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.** When we read this story, we see how God chooses David to be the next King of Israel. As most people would do, they might look at the outward appearance but God in verse 7 tells us what He looks at, the heart. God is teaching us that the outward appearance does not predict whether someone will faithfully obey the Lord. The heart in the Scriptures refers to a person's "mind," "will," and "affections."

What does it mean that God "looks at the heart" of an individual? How does that mean you should start evaluating yourself? We judge other people by the wrong standards, and we often judge ourselves by the wrong standards. What are some common standards we judge ourselves against that can be unhealthy? How do you focus more on your inward transformation than your outward transformation?

**Question 2: Read Psalms 51:5, Jeremiah 17:9, Luke 6:45.** The Scriptures teach that every person has a "major heart problem." Pastor Jeff said the phrase, "there is no such thing as a neutral heart." Sin has corrupted every human heart. How do you help remind yourself that your heart was spiritually dead, incapable of following God? **Read Ephesians 2:1-2.** How does this passage reinforce the severity of your heart problem?

**Question 3: Read Ezekiel 36:26.** This principle shows us that our heart, if left by itself, would eventually be our demise. God teaches us that He needs to give us a "heart transplant." This is a spiritual problem that cannot be taken care of expect by God himself. How do you remind yourself that God needs to continually work on your heart and change it? How do you remind yourself of that the Gospel has done for you?

**Read 2 Corinthians 3:18**

In Christ, God is continually transforming us into His image. How are you submitting yourself to Christ today so that you can be changed?

**Questions 4: Ephesians 6:16, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 5:8, Psalms 51:10.** God warns us that our hearts will be spiritually attacked, and for our desire to have a healthy heart. The enemy of God will do everything he can to make sure you don't grow into the image of Jesus. How do you prepare yourself for spiritual attacks? How do you maintain your desire to grow into the image of Jesus?

(6 parenting tips...)

1. Teach to know Jesus, not just to know about Jesus.
2. Teach a lifestyle, not just a lesson.
3. Teach to exalt, not just to excel.
4. Teach faith and repentance are practiced daily, not just one time.
5. Teach character transformation, not just behavior modification
6. Teach the only worthy goal is to live for the glory of God.

### Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?