



SESSION #5

LUKE 6:43-45

LEADER GUIDE

**BIG IDEA: THE QUALITY OF OUR WORKS
REVEALS THE QUALITY OF OUR HEART,**

Group Time:

- What is your favorite memory from elementary school (K-6)?
- What's one characteristic of your parents that you absolutely want to keep in yourself?
- What's one characteristic of your parents that you absolutely want to change in yourself?
- Are there any lingering questions from the sermon you still wonder about? Are there any new thoughts that you had?

Bible Time:

- **Do:** On their Student Guide, ask everyone to rate themselves - on a 1 to 10 scale - on the goodness of their heart. Do not ask anyone to share the number.
- **Ask:** How can you tell if someone is a good chef? How can you tell if someone is a good poet?
- **Say:** There is a direct relationship between one's occupational proficiency and the quality of one's production.
- **Ask:** Can one be a good poet if one never writes a good poem? Can one be a good chef if one never cooks a good meal?
- **Read:** verses 43-45.
- **Ask:** How can you tell if someone's heart is good? Can a good heart produce evil actions? If we are consistently producing a particular evil action, what does this tell us about our heart?
- **Do:** Skim 2 Samuel 11:2-5,14-16, 26-27. People can fluctuate throughout the course of their lives. At this point in his life, where would the group rate David on the 1 to 10 scale of goodness of heart?
- **Ask:** Think about these questions and then discuss the issues.
 - Do you need to have a good heart to be saved by Jesus?
 - Do you need to have a good heart to live for Jesus?
 - What is the relationship between salvation and having a good heart?



SESSION #5

LUKE 6:43-45

LEADER GUIDE

**BIG IDEA: THE QUALITY OF OUR WORKS
REVEALS THE QUALITY OF OUR HEART,**

- **Leaders Note:** God gives us new life when we turn to Him (Rom 6:1-7), which should - and usually does - result in a change in our actions. So being saved and having a good heart are related. There is a general principle - those who trust a righteous God will be righteous themselves - but there are also exceptions at points in our lives.

So if our actions are bad that would mean two possible things. One, maybe we have not gone from dead to life. Maybe we are not converted. Two, perhaps the present state of our heart (soul) may not be healthy.

The question becomes: first are we in Christ, saved, born again? That is where our heart begins its transformation. We are saved based on Christ's merits, not our own (Rom 3:23-34; Eph 2:8-10). However, we should question the condition of our hearts even after conversion. Nobody should assume they have clean hands and a pure heart (Ps 24:3-4) just because they are forgiven.

Consider, too, the implications of Phil 2:12 & 13, "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you." (NIV) The Lord is the one who starts and finishes our faith, yet we have a part to do.

- **Big Idea:** We all tend to think of ourselves as basically good – well-intentioned but sometimes misguided. Could an honest assessment of our works produce a more accurate picture of the condition of our heart?
- **Read:** Galatians 5:19-22. Using Galatians 5 as a standard, have everyone again rate their hearts on their Student Guides, this time based on their actions of the last month. Is there something on this list they've struggled with?
- **Do:** Have everyone turn to a neighbor or pair up all members of the group. With their partner, they should answer the following questions:
 - How do your two heart ratings - at the start and end of the lesson - compare? If there is a difference, why?
 - How does your current rating compare with the rating you would have assigned to yourself at other points in your life? Are you improving or worsening?
 - What things can you do to restore your heart? How can you improve the condition of your soul?
 - Have you started your relationship with Christ?
 - Have you continued on that process of becoming more like Jesus? How is your



SESSION #5

LUKE 6:43-45

LEADER GUIDE

**BIG IDEA: THE QUALITY OF OUR WORKS
REVEALS THE QUALITY OF OUR HEART,**

relationship with God? Is it real? Is it as deep as a puddle? Are you loving God enough to follow Him?

Group Time:

- **Pray:** Have each pair write down two things on an index card (one per person) that they can do to improve the condition of their heart, and thus their actions. Then have pairs trade cards. Each pair should copy the card they receive in the trade so each partner has a copy of the received card. Ask all members of the group to pray for the other pair during the week. (Everyone could also pray immediately, if time allows.) The leader should close in prayer.