

Connect Group Conversation (Leader Guide)

Week of April 28th, 2024

MAIN IDEA

Sunday, Pastor Steve continued our series, "Boiling Point," by drawing a powerful analogy between the necessity of purifying water for survival and the spiritual purification we need through Christ. He emphasized how little of the world's water is drinkable without purification, mirroring our need for an external agent, like Jesus, to cleanse our impurities. Pastor Steve then challenged us to recognize that while we might appear clean, like a glass of water might look safe, our hearts need the purifying work of Jesus. He used the cross as the ultimate boiling point where God's judgment and mercy met, offering us a way to be purified and close the gap between our impurities and God's purity.

Leader Tip: *Encourage openness in the discussion by reminding everyone that purification is a journey we are all on together.*

TALK IT OUT

1. Pastor Steve used the analogy of purifying water to explain our spiritual needs. How does this comparison help you understand your need for Jesus' work in your life?
Bible Reference: Titus 2:14
2. Reflect on the idea that "impure water looks the same from the outside as pure water." Can you share a time when you felt you were only addressing external behaviors rather than internal changes?
Bible Reference: Matthew 23:25-26
3. Pastor Steve talked about the ongoing process of purification even after we come to Christ. How does the concept of "proximity" to the fire (God's presence) help you in your daily walk with God?
Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 6:17
4. Considering the sermon, why is it important to not just be positionally pure but to engage actively in the process of being purified? How can this affect your daily life and decisions?
Bible Reference: 1 John 1:9

Questions for Middle and High School Students

1. Pastor Steve talked about survival shows and the importance of purifying water. How does this relate to the need for spiritual purification in your life?
Bible Reference: Titus 2:14
2. Why do you think it's easy to focus on how we look on the outside rather than what's inside? How does this relate to your experience at school or with friends?
Bible Reference: Matthew 23:25-26
3. Discuss the importance of being close to God's 'fire.' How can you stay connected to God during your school week?
Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 6:17
4. What does it mean to be 'positionally pure' versus 'actively purified'? How can this understanding help you in making choices?
Bible Reference: 1 John 1:9

Questions for Parents of School-Aged Children

1. In talking about the importance of water purity, Pastor Steve highlighted our dependence on Christ for spiritual purity. How can you model this dependence to your children?
Bible Reference: Titus 2:14
2. How can you teach your children about the difference between appearing right and being right with God?
Bible Reference: Matthew 23:25-26

3. Pastor Steve emphasized the need for proximity to God. What are some practical ways your family can practice being closer to God's presence in your daily routines?

Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 6:17

4. Discuss the ongoing need for spiritual purification. How can you encourage your children to engage in their spiritual growth?

Bible Reference: 1 John 1:9

Alternate/Optional Questions

- Discuss the significance of only 0.3% of Earth's water being drinkable and how this scarcity parallels our spiritual lives. **Bible Reference:** John 4:14
- Explore the idea of 'positionally' versus 'practically' pure. How does understanding this difference influence our spiritual disciplines? **Bible Reference:** Romans 6:22
- Reflect on the importance of continuous purification. What are some spiritual 'contaminants' that can affect our daily lives? **Bible Reference:** 2 Peter 3:14
- Consider the role of the Holy Spirit in our ongoing purification process. How can we cooperate more fully with the Spirit? **Bible Reference:** Galatians 5:16