

Close, Perfect, Fixed, and Pure Heart

Teacher Note: After each description of a heart that God desires, have the children write and/or try to illustrate it on a heart shape. i.e. a close heart- write "close" or draw a picture that shows what a heart close to God might be like. After teaching all four descriptions, place them into a "heart pocket" with the word Jesus on it. These descriptions can only be met in Christ. It is His heart that we have been given. His is close, perfect, fixed and pure. Thank you Jesus for Your heart that you have placed in us so that we might know the Father.

1Sa 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: *for the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, **but the LORD looketh on the heart.**

I think you have heard this verse before. It is when Samuel was told by God to anoint one of the sons of Jesse to be king. Samuel looked at the oldest and thought, *Surely he is the one.* But God said, "No. You can only see the outward, but I look at the heart." God is always concerned with the heart.

I found some verses that tell us what kind of heart the Lord desires.

God desires a heart close to Him

Here are Jesus' words about men who acted or spoke like they loved God, but their hearts were really not toward Him at all.

Mt 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their **heart is far from me.**

God desires a heart close to Him. He does not want 'lip service.' That means lips saying what we think He wants to hear, but our hearts not toward Him.

God desires a perfect heart

Here is another verse. It is about King Amaziah and his reign over Judah.

2Ch 25:2 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, but **not with a perfect heart.**

That word perfect means 'whole' or 'complete'. Amaziah did right things, but not with his whole heart. There was room in his heart for things other than the Lord, and he turned to those things, to idols. God sent a prophet to warn him, but Amaziah would not listen and God let him fall into the hands of his enemies. But the point is that Amaziah did not have a perfect heart, a complete, whole heart toward God.

Deut 6:5 And thou shalt **love the LORD thy God with all thine heart**, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

God desires a heart fixed on seeking Him

Here is another verse about a King of Judah:

2Ch 12:14 And he did evil, because he **prepared (fixed) not his heart to seek the LORD.**

The reason he did evil? His heart was not fixed on the Lord. A heart fixed on seeking God will walk in His ways.

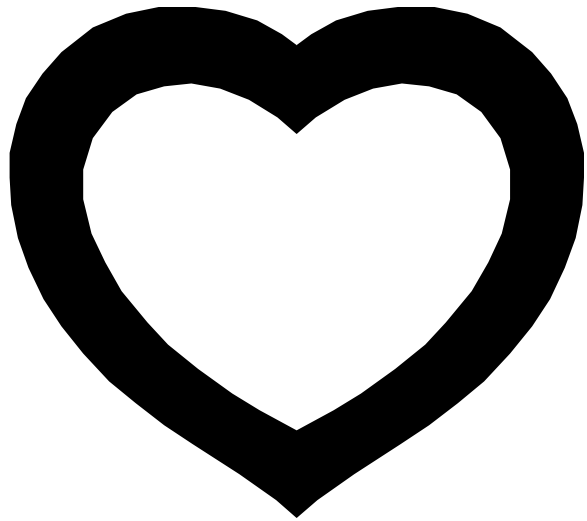
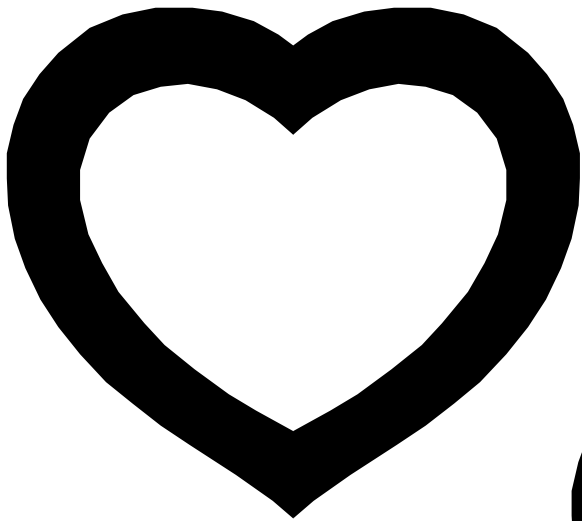
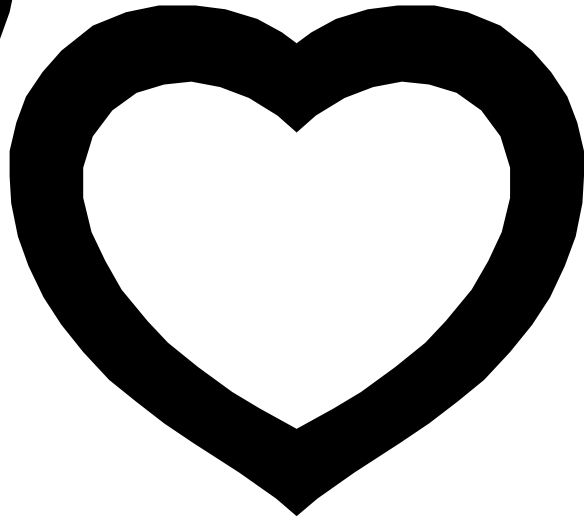
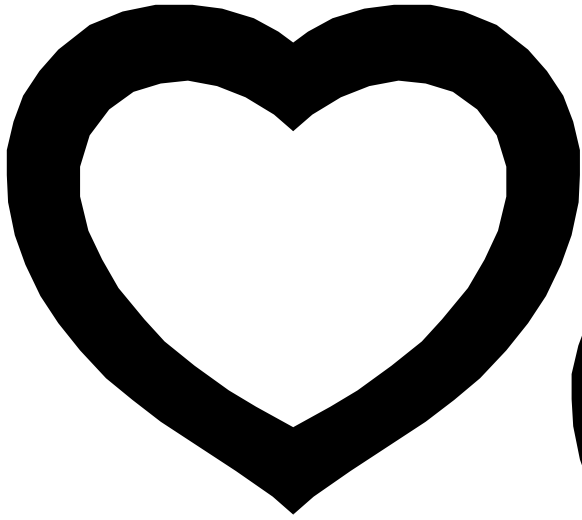
God desires a pure heart

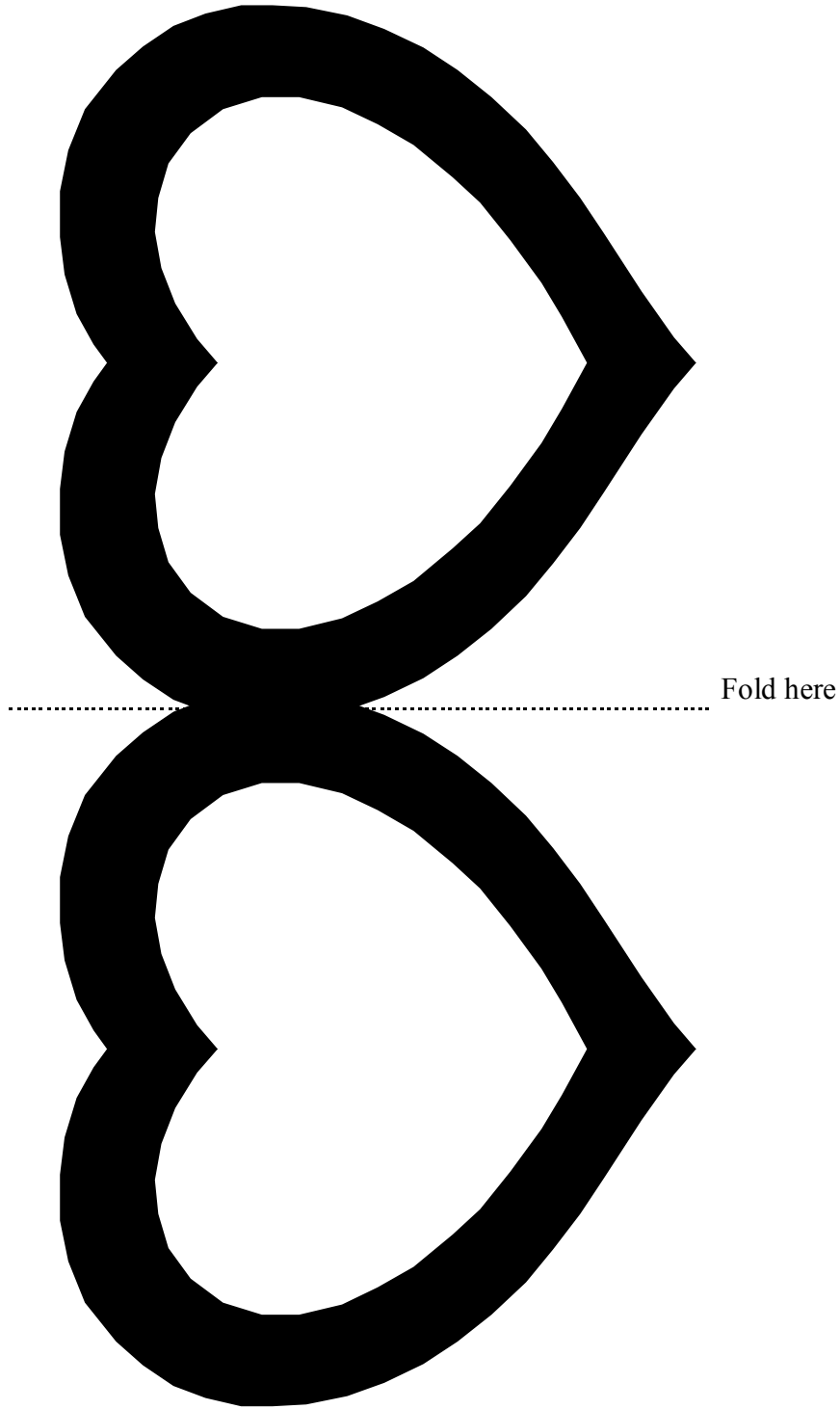
Mt 5:8 says, **Blessed are the pure in heart:** for they shall see God.

What does *pure* mean? Think about water. If I have a cup full of pure water, then add 1 tiny drop of poison, is the water pure? Pure means 100% clean; no mixture. The pure in heart, those whose hearts are fully toward the Lord, will see Him. They will know Him.

So God desires a heart that is close to Him, not just in words; a heart that is perfect, fixed on seeking Him, and pure. That is TALL order! How do we get a heart like that? God made a promise about the coming of the New Covenant, and He said: “And **I will give them a heart to know me**, that I *am* the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for **they shall return unto me with their whole heart** (Jer 24:7).” The New Covenant has come with Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. His Life is made available for us. God **has given** us a heart to know Him. He kept His promise. If you have Jesus in your heart, hidden in you is **His heart** that longs for the Lord; His heart that desires one thing only. Did you know that He has given you this heart? If you don’t know it, you might think that you have a different kind of heart. But as we see and know the truth of His Life living in us, we can begin to walk in that truth and let His heart be what governs us; lives through us. In turning to Him, He is able to work in us the overflow of His life.







Cut on outside, solid black lines.
Fold on dotted line and glue lower half to make a "heart pocket."
Have children write "Jesus" on heart and insert other hearts.