

GIVE US CLEAN HANDS

Before you read the lyrics to this song, read Psalm 24:3-6.

This passage and this song talk about having clean hands. What do you think the writer means by clean hands?

In the Psalm, why is it that one should have clean hands? What are clean hands and pure hearts the prerequisite for?

What kind of blessings do you experience (v.5) by keeping your hands clean?

**We bow our hearts We bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes From evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols**

**Give us clean hands Give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another**

**Oh God let us be The generation that seeks
Who seeks your face Oh God of Jacob**

There are hints in this song as to ways that we can make sure our hearts are pure. How many do you see and what are they?

"ALL PLAY": What "evil things" have your eyes seen that you need to turn from?

What does it mean to lift our souls to an idol, or "another"? What things or people in your life act as idols?

What's the difference between making sure your own hands are clean and asking God to "give" you clean hands? Whose responsibility is it?

TO DWELL ON DURING THIS SONG: This is a song of confession and repentance. Whenever you sing this song, think through the evils and idols in your life and humbly pray to God to remove those. Spend time praying as a group in confession. Don't forget – small group should be a safe place for sharing such things.

LEADER'S GUIDE:

I'd recommend doing an interesting **object lesson** at the beginning. Bring a bottle of antibacterial gel to small group. As they sit down, squirt some into each student's hands, and ask them to clean their hands.

Then ask: How "clean" are their hands now? Clean enough to eat? Prepare food in a restaurant? Perform surgery? What is clean "enough"?

Then start the study... I'd recommend **running off the first sheet** of this lesson and giving a sheet to each student. Heavily emphasize that you want them to keep the handouts. Perhaps make **folders** or give them **binders** to hang onto these sheets. Ask them to bring the folder or binder each week to small group. Maybe even include a couple of blank sheets for prayer requests.

I'd also recommend **getting this song on a CD** and playing it in small group when it comes at the appropriate time of the study. It breaks up the talking, and they will "hear" the words much more clearly by focusing on it. Go to www.worshiptogether.com if you don't know where to find it.

Contact Melanie Pearlman (melanie_pearlman@hotmail.com) if you have further questions about this study, or Kelly Soifer if you have questions about the tips in the Leader's Guide.