

Study Series: The Holiness of God

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 Lesson Title: “Holy Justice” (pp. 121-131)

Session 10

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The main point of this lesson is:God’s holy justice reflects that His instructions are to be taken seriously.

Focus on this goal: To help adults strengthen their resolve to take seriously the instructions of the Lord

Key Bible Passage: Leviticus 10:1-3; 1 Chronicles 13:1-11

Before the Session

1. Send a note to each group participant with this thinking question: What does God’s holiness prompt us to do in everyday life?

2. Bring extra Bibles, pens, and copies of MasterWork to give to any new attendees.

3. Write at the top of the board (or poster): Let’s focus on how to respond to God as we discover today more about God’s holiness. Leave most of the room for group members’ ideas. Divide the board into two sides labeled: Old Testament and New Testament*.* Bring a marker for each group member. (Steps 1, 2, and 4)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Distribute markers. Ask learners to write examples of both God’s tenderness and justice in both the Old Testament and New Testament. Suggest members leaf through their Bibles for ideas.

Ask: What do you love about the Old Testament? What do you love about the New Testament?

Highlight that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Step 2. Unauthorized Fire

Invite group members to share their responses to the question you sent: “What does God’s holiness prompt us to do in everyday life?” Explore several areas from how we behave at the breakfast table, to our work, to chores, to bedtime preparations.

Affirm that loving God doesn’t require we understand every question, but as we explore these questions we can respond well to God’s holiness.

Dive into Leviticus 10:1-3 by reviewing Day One, activities 1 and 2 (pp. 121-122).

Direct attention to the statement you wrote on the board to stress that we are seeking to obey God, not just give answers.

Keep feeding a sense of exploration with the goal of learning to live for God. Add to the board the insights you and others make.

Call on a volunteer to read “The main point of this lesson is” statement (p. 130) for a summary regarding God’s holy justice. Use the second Discussion Question on page 122 to begin sharing wisdom on this.

Step 3. No Accident

Call for group members to identify their life stage as related to Aaron. That is are they about the age of Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu, are they an Aaron with babies wondering who they will grow up to be, are they at Aaron’s parental stage, would they now have been missing their sons several years later, or something else?

Engage the group in the Day Two Discussion Question (bottom of p. 123) from this perspective. Note that each can teach from different life perspectives.

Call again for a volunteer to read the main point of the lesson (p. 130).

To let group members explore God’s instructions from their own understanding on why rules matter, review responses to Day Two, activity 1 (p. 124).

Explore what rules remain even for varying an ingredient or for the number of shelves on a hand-constructed bookshelf.

Step 4. God Does Right

Using insights from the Day Three content (pp. 124-126) and the pull-quote (p. 124) discuss where arrogance comes from and why it’s so dangerous (see also Day Three Discussion Questions, p. 124).

Pause to pray adults will recognize their own arrogance rather than focus on the arrogance of others. (Note: Do not ask group members to share their responses to Day Three, activity 1 since that is between them and God.)

Call for the group to review Day Three, activity 2 (p. 125) to understand some of the challenging arguments with what they have discovered so far.

Refer back to the statement on the board, reminding adults we are seeking to understand and obey God.

Ask the final Day Three, Discussion Question (p. 126).

Step 5. Good Intentions

To let the Bible be our first teacher, instruct volunteers to share from Day Four, activity 1 (p. 126) their impressions after reading the Scripture.

Invite the group to name other themes from Leviticus 10:1-3 or 1 Chronicles 13:1-11 for which we could share insights into understanding God’s holiness. Then use Day Four Discussion Questions (pp. 127, 128) for group discussion.

Step 6. But Still Guilty

Call for a volunteer to read the Day Five pull-quote (p. 128). Invite volunteers to tell why this is true or give an example that illustrates its truth.

Review Day Five, activities 1 and 2 (p. 129) to help drive home the goal of taking seriously (enough to follow) the instructions of the Lord.

Use Day Five Discussion Questions (p. 129) in this process.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Ask what is good about God’s justice. Let group members teach each other about how to live out in everyday life the seemingly—but not really—uneasy mix of divine mercy and divine justice.

Close in prayer, thanking God for both His justice and His mercy.

