

Study Series: The Holiness of God

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Lesson Title: “Holy Justice (cont.)” (pp. 132-144)

Session 11

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The main point of this lesson is: God’s holy justice is always justified.

Focus on this goal: To help adults view God’s holy justice in the context of His grace and mercy

Key Bible Passage: Deuteronomy 7:1-6; Ezekiel 18:4

Before the Session

1. Email the group to ask them what they enjoy about the group. Blind carbon to protect people’s privacy, and to collect what they like as a surprise for the time together. (Step 1)

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

3. Have a board (or poster) and marker for each group member. (Steps 3-4)

4. Provide quarter sheets of paper. (Step 2)

5. Create a poster with the letters of the alphabet. (Step 6)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Read members’ reasons for liking the group. Explain good togetherness is just one of many excellent results of God’s holiness. His insistence on justice and His provision of grace are designed to bring about good for people. Invite responses.

Repeat that even when we know the good holiness is designed to engender, truths about holiness can be challenging.

Say: Remember believers have been wrestling with these for generations. Even before we fully understand we can live in loving response to God’s holiness.

Brainstorm ways group members can be vehicles of God’s goodness to each other. (Teacher Tip: This is less braggy to answer than “How will you be good?”)

Step 2. Justice and Mercy

Courageously dive into the study of God’s justice by spotlighting why people want and need justice.

Use Day One Discussion Question (p. 132).

Guide the group to feel the pain of injustice, then to appreciate God’s justice. Focus most closely on how God’s justice shows love.

Pause to pray for God to guide hearts and hands to act justly.

Review the group’s responses to activity 1 (p. 133). Hearing others’ responses might spark more thoughts so brainstorm additional possibilities.

Stress that God made us to be His ambassadors.

Distribute paper and direct group members to make a take-along reminder to be God’s ambassador. For example, one might fold a tiny airplane to say that small actions count or create an ambassador ID card as a reminder of one’s role.

Step 3. Treason of Sin

Note that as ambassadors we are God’s image bearers.

Call for a volunteer to read the pull-quote (p. 135).

Call on volunteers to teach what it means to be God’s image bearers with their responses to Day Two, activity 2 (p. 135). For any learner who created a logo, offer the option for the member to draw it on the board (or poster) and explain it. Alternatively, offer to draw the logo yourself as it’s explained to show you understand that group member’s concept.

Give the group the option of adding to their reminders created in Step 2. As they do so, lead in a discussion of Day Two Discussions Questions (pp. 135).

Step 4. Offended by Justice, Part 1

Remembering that we image bearers are also offended by injustice (Step 2) discuss the purpose of God’s patience, as guided by opening paragraph of Day Three and the first Discussion Question (p. 136).

Ask several volunteers to read Deuteronomy 7:2 from various Bible translations. Ask what questions the verse raises in learners’ minds.

Ask how Deuteronomy 7:1-6 answers questions regarding the seeming harshness of God’s required action (activity 2, p. 137). If not already addressed by learners’ responses to activity 2, raise the corresponding Discussion Questions (p. 137).

Step 5. Offended by Justice, Part 2

Use Day Four Discussion Questions (p. 138) to introduce another dangerous assumption people often make about God’s holiness.

Read the pull-quote (p. 139) and call for reactions.

Use the Day Four Discussion Questions (p. 139) and activity 1 (p. 139) to explore how adults can be wise in choosing relationships. Direct attention to the second part of the activity and stress that we must not only be concerned with the type of relationships we have, but also with the type of relationship we offer.

Pray for wise and holiness-inspiring relationships.

Step 6. Taking Grace for Granted

Read the opening paragraph of Day Five (p. 140). Unpack with Day Five Discussion Questions (pp. 140, top of 141).

Display a poster with the letters of the alphabet. Give a volunteer a marker to write as group members call out their responses to Day Five, activity 1 (p. 141).

Engage learners in the Discussion Question at the bottom of page 141.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

The correct completions for Day Five, activity 2 (p. 142) are: *belongs, me, life, like, belong, person, sins, die.*

Call for volunteers to share the tune to which they sing the verse. Have fun singing the verse to various tunes. Point out singing sets the verse in our minds.

Call for a volunteer to read the “Focus on this goal” at the top of page 143.

Pray, thanking God for caring enough about us to give just rules that bring the love and work and goodness we crave.

