

Study Series: The Holiness of God

Author: R. C. Sproul

 Lesson Title: “War and Peace with a Holy God” (pp. 145-156)

Session 12

November 21, 2021

The main point of this lesson is: Peace with holy God only follows surrender to Him.

Focus on this goal: To help adults surrender to holy God

Key Bible Passage: Romans 5:1-2

Before the Session

1. Contact participants. Offer to pray for requests. The personal connections from leader to group members are of great value.

2. Write on four sides of a square or nearly-square box Jacob in Day One, Job in Day Two, Habakkuk in Day Three, and Saul in Day Four. On the final two sides write Any. (Option: Use three-by-five-inch cards instead of a box. Shuffle and place facedown like a deck of cards.) (Step 1)

3. Bring Bibles, pens, and copies of MasterWork.

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

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Remind learners our study is leading us to seek insights and ways to live the Bible truths about holiness. Even without totally understanding tough passages we can follow God honorably. Pledge to learn together.

Take turns rolling the box (or drawing from the stack of cards) and naming some insight we can learn from that person and how to live out the insight. Help group members find these insights in Session 12 (pp. 145-152).

Step 2. Jacob

Delve into wrestler Jacob with Day One Discussion Questions (p. 145).

Invite group members to share insights they recorded in activity 1 (p. 145) about why someone might think it’s OK to deceive, con, or conspire.

Use the Day One pull-quote and second set of Discussion Questions (p. 146) to address the concept of “the sweetness of the soul’s surrender.” (Option: If you have a wrestler in your group, invite him or her to tell the advantages of good wrestling.)

Step 3. Job

Transition to another honest struggle by a man named Job.

Call for volunteers to summarize Job’s journey based on the passages in Day Two (pp. 147-149). Then invite five volunteers to read the five passages included in the content (Job 13:15; 38:1-11; 40:3-5; 40:8; and 42:2-6).

Recalling that math, science, and other subjects are as insightful to communicate spiritual truths as can English, invite volunteers to write on the board the math equations they created for Day Two, activity 1 (p. 147).

Ask Day Two Discussion Questions (pp. 147-148).

Step 4. Habakkuk

Transition to the third honest struggle from Habakkuk. Explain that Jacob had been misbehaving, Job wrestled with bad happening to him and Habakkuk wrestled with bad happening to others.

Use recipes to communicate spiritual truth as volunteers write them on the board from Day Three, activity 2 (p. 150).

Use Discussion Questions (pp. 149-150) to discover how to get to the point of Habakkuk 3:17-18.

Step 5. Saul of Tarsus

Note that this session is packed with so many key Bible passages learners might feel they can’t get one managed before it’s time for the next. Stress again to focus on what each teaches about God’s holiness.

Call for a volunteer to use Day Four (pp. 151-152) to introduce Saul (later known as Paul).

Ask Day Four Discussion Question (p. 151) and invite volunteers to share their responses to Day Four, activity 1 (p. 151).

Pray adults let God lead them rather than assume they are doing things rightly.

Step 6. Peace and Access

Direct attention to the Day Five pull-quote (p. 153), then engage the participants in the first set of Day Five Discussion Question (p. 154).

Invite brief testimonies of how God’s peace has equipped group members to do the right thing in God’s honor.

Stress the main point of the lesson (p. 155), that surrender to God leads to peace.

Lead the group in the second set of Day Five Discussion Questions (p. 154).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Suggest today’s goal (p. 155) has three prongs. The first relates to those who have not yet surrendered to God for the first time. We do this by becoming a Christian. We will all pray privately during this prong since none of us needs to know who has and has not surrendered to God for the first time. Use the inside front cover of MasterWork to explain each step. Have the entire class talk with God privately.

Then explain the second prong is for those of us who already have surrendered to God the first time by becoming a Christian. We will pray privately again to reaffirm our daily surrender to Jesus Christ.

The third prong is to invite other people to surrender to God by receiving Jesus Christ. As time allows, take turns role playing how to use the inside front cover of MasterWork to invite someone to become a Christian. Let those who play the unbelievers ask questions in sincere ways and to tell why they might or might not want to become a Christian.

Pause to pray that all participants (including yourself) will surrender to God in ways that make Him appealing to unbelievers.

