

Study Series: The Holiness of God

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 Lesson Title: “Be Holy Because I Am Holy” (pp. 157-168)

Session 13

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The main point of this lesson is:Holy God expects His people to be holy.

Focus on this goal:To help adults adopt the practice of lifestyle holiness

Key Bible Passages: Leviticus 11:44; Romans 12:1-2

Before the Session

1. Contact group members and ask them to please ponder what holiness looks like and acts like in everyday living. (Step 1)

2. Bring paper plates and markers (Step 1), a whiteboard (Steps 2 and 3), and a poster for each group (Step 7).

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Call for a volunteer to read Leviticus 11:44.

Ask: What does being holy look like and act like in everyday living?

Affirm that holiness is a 24/7 way of life and can be as simple as giving full attention to a child’s news.

Give each member a marker and two paper plates to divide into twelve sections, as on a clock. Assign one plate as PM and one as AM. Pass the plates to the left for each person to add a way to be holy in one of those hours. Repeat until the plates return to the original owners. Let the owner fill in other hours.

Call for volunteers to cite one action from their clocks that obeys “be holy because I am holy” (Lev. 11:44). Take turns.

Stop to pray, thanking God for the privilege of imitating His holiness every hour, and that holiness is not limited to church time.

Step 2. Called to Be Holy

Write holiness, saints, purity, and God’s image on the whiteboard. Invite group members to explain the relationship between these four using copy from Day One (pp. 157-158). Suggest: Relate at least two of these, and if you relate all four, we’ll applaud!

Highlight the pull-quote (p. 157) and brainstorm ideas about the value of purity at home, at work, and in the community.

Relate Day One Discussion Questions (p. 157) with learner responses to activity 1 (p. 158).

Call for a volunteer to read this session’s main point (p. 167) to introduce Day One Discussion Questions (p. 158).

Step 3. Nonconformity

Read Romans 7:19 and ask adults if they can relate. Invite a volunteer to read the fuller context of Romans 7:19-24.

Direct attention to the Day Two pull-quote (p. 159) about the stupidity of sin. Ask why, if we want to do good and sin is stupid, we give in to sin. Explain: Sin often gets us because emotion wins over logic. But we have the holy God of the universe on our side.

Engage the group in Day Two Discussion Questions (p. 159).

Urge adults to fight back at sin’s allure by filling the whiteboard with dozens of reasons sin is wicked, destructive, or downright stupid. Then write HOLY in huge letters across the board.

Invite volunteers to state reasons why they want to be, act, decide, and respond in holy ways.

As a group, memorize Romans 12:1-2 together, beginning by reviewing activity 1 (p. 160). Call for a volunteer to read the verses from the activity guided by the lines he or she separated the words with. The correct separation of words is from the CSB translation. Take turns reciting all or part Romans 12:1-2 without looking. Even partial tries help all group members hear and memorize it.

Step 4. Living Sacrifice

State: A good reason to choose holiness is that holiness stands for and produces everything opposite to that which is wicked, destructive, and downright stupid. Invite responses.

Call on a volunteer to read the Day Three pull-quote (p. 161).

Ask the Day Three Discussion Questions (pp. 160-161).

Call for the group to share responses from the first part of Day Three activity 1 (p. 161). (Let the second part of activity 1 and activity 2 stay private.)

Pray adults will each be holy rather than just look holy.

Step 5. Transformation

Observe: We’ve discovered that holiness is an hour-by-hour choice, and even when we want to be holy, sin sneakily pulls us away from that pursuit or lead us to fake holiness. Now let’s study how to be transformed.

Stress that transformation comes through applying the Bible, not just being in Bible classes or reading verses. Delve into this with Day Four content (pp. 162-164) Discussion Questions (pp. 162 and 164).

Step 6. Practice Makes Holier

Call on a volunteer to explain Martin Luther’s Latin phrase (pp. 164-165).

Invite learners to share equations they wrote for the second part of Day Five activity 1 (p. 165).

Call on volunteers to reread Leviticus 11:44 and Romans 12:1-2. Affirm that God gives us the power, but we must access it.

Call for a volunteer to read the pull-quote (p. 165), also from Luther.

Ask Day Five Discussion Questions (p. 166).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Divide the board into six panels labeled from Session 8 to 13. Prompt group members to review the sessions and add what they learned during this study to the appropriate section. Option: Form teams to accomplish this review. Assign teams to review the whole study or each team to review a single session. Provide board space or a poster for each team.

Prompt each adult to determine one way to live out their learning.

Pray God will help each of you live out His holiness.

