

Study Series: The Holiness of God

Author: R. C. Sproul

Lesson Title: “Holy, Holy, Holy” (pp. 97-108)

Session 8

October 24, 2021

The main point of this lesson is: When we see God as He truly is, we will see Him as holy.

Focus on this goal: To help adults more fully grasp the holiness of God

Key Bible Passage: Isaiah 6:1-8

To the Leader: Group members respond in many ways to theological realities such as the holiness of God. They may believe they need to know all the answers, may fear to answer at all, or may give churchy answers they don’t fully understand. Equip all these persons by repeating: We are here to learn about and respond to God’s holiness. Let’s look to Him with honest openness.

Before the Session

1. Have available extra Bibles, pens, and current issue of MasterWork.

2. Bring a whiteboard (or a blank poster) and markers. (Steps 1, 2, and 3)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

As members arrive, invite them to create math equations on the board that show what it would be like to meet God. Some may use only numbers, but some may add, subtract, divide, or multiply words.

When all have arrived direct attention to the whiteboard. Call for members to identify what they learn about meeting God from equations not their own.

Explain that math reminds us of the orderliness of our God and is a powerful way to learn about Him.

Note that we will study Isaiah, a regular person who met God personally.

Step 2. Isaiah the Prophet

Put the session into context using the Table of Contents (p. iii), identifying the six sessions during which you will study—and respond to—the holiness of God.

Observe you will discover what to add in, what to subtract, how God’s holiness multiplies goodness and what to divide ourselves from.

Point out people have many views of holiness, some inaccurate and some closer to what’s biblical. But as we study Scripture, we will find insights into not only what God’s holiness means, but how to live in response to it.

Invite volunteers to share one of their lines about holiness from Day One, activity 2 (p. 98).

Using the Day One Discussion Questions (p. 98), introduce the group to Isaiah. After articulating what brought Isaiah to confront God’s holiness, ask volunteers to write on the board actions that communicate God’s holiness.

Step 3. God's Holiness, Part 1

Direct the group to write, or type into their phones, the two designations for God as you write them on the whiteboard: *Lord* (6:1,8) and *Lord* (or *LORD*, 6:3,5). Then call for features of each in Isaiah 6:1-8 and Day Two (p. 99).

Ask the Day Two Discussion Question (p. 99).

Suggest the group leaf (or scroll on their phones) through Old Testament passages to find more occurrences of Lord or Lord and what the context at each occurrence teaches. Pause to pray, thanking God for letting the Bible teach us about the Bible.

Then bless the group with the “most famous and beloved benediction of Israel” (p. 100) by reading Numbers 6:24-26.

Suggest group members write the benediction as you read it to help them memorize it. (Day Two, activity 2, p. 100, answers: Lord, you, face, gracious, turn, face, you, peace.)

Step 4. God's Holiness, Part 2

Some group members will feel more comfortable sketching or doodling Bible truths than verbalizing them. This session includes math learners, verbal learners, and visual learners. All learners learn Scripture more thoroughly with a variety of approaches.

Review Day Three, activity 1 (p. 100), allowing volunteers to display their illustrations and explain them as needed. Highlight an insight about seraphim in each group member’s illustration, to show the power of Bible learning through sketching. Stress that the details and content of drawings are the focus, rather than the drawing quality.

Invite learners who listed rather than illustrated to add any insights about seraphim not already addressed.

Draw attention to the Day Three pull-quote (p. 101).

Invite volunteers to teach about the seraphim’s message (Isa. 6:3) by sharing personal observations and reflections on it.

Step 5. "Woe to Me!"

Ask the Day Four Discussion Question (p. 102).

Organize the group by birth month, with January to June in one group, and July to December in the other group, adjusting to make even. Debate whether it would be easier to meet God as Isaiah did (Jan.-Jun.) or as we do today (Jul.-Dec.). Encourage each side to give points from Day Four content (pp. 102-104).

Acknowledge that each gives us insight into how God reveals, unravels, and weaves back together.

Read the pull-quote and first Day Four Discussion Question on page 103, then discuss.

Step 6. Cleansing and Calling

Pause to pray, thanking God for His cleansing and calling.

Suggest group members find lines from Day Five they can include as part of prayer.

Invite volunteers to read the pull-quote (p. 104) and phrases from Isaiah 6:1-8 that illustrate the quote’s truth. Then focus on the new dimensions of letting God show us where to go and what to do—to send us. Use Day Five, activity 2 (p. 106) to help with this.

Ask the first Day Five Discussion Question (p. 105).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Call for a volunteer to read “Focus on this Goal” (p. 107).

Invite each to use a mathematical equation, words, or a sketch to share a way they have more fully grasped the holiness of God during this Bible study.

Thank God for being holy yet cleansing and utilizing us in His work.

