

Holier Than Thou

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Lesson Title: “Holy How?: Holy Vision” (pp. 79-94)

Session 6

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The main point of this lesson is: God’s holiness transforms our blindness to holy vision.

Focus on this goal: To help adults ask God to give them His holy perspective

Key Bible Passage: 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Guide the group to list things people use or do to help them see better. Write responses on a whiteboard. (Samples: contacts, eyeglasses, sunglasses, surgery, binoculars, microscopes, telescopes, increase font, move closer or further, squint, flashlights.) Consider why we make such efforts to improve our vision. State: Impaired sight is not a condition most people would choose because there are many things we cannot do if we cannot see.

Read 1 Peter 1:15-16 and declare: Being holy is something we simply cannot do if we don’t have holy vision.

Step 2. No Holy Spirit, No Holiness

Invite responses to Day One, activity 1 (p. 79). Draw attention to the responses from Step 1 on the board and ask: Which of these ways to see better can we do on our own and which requires a professional? Why can’t we gain holy vision on our own?

Invite a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:1. Analyze what it looks like to be dead in our sins. Ask: What can a dead person do?

Relate the Day One illustration (p. 80) of a person telling a dead body to live, feel, and think. Stress “this scenario describes us when we try to be holy apart from the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit” (p. 80).

Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 81). Explain the agent or “professional” who miraculously brings sight to dead eyes is the Holy Spirit. Request a volunteer read the Day One Note (p. 79).

Step 3. No Life, No Holiness

Brainstorm ways people attempt to make themselves holy. Ask: How are those attempts actually unholy actions and attitudes?

Request adults consult 1 Peter 1:3 and identify whom Peter was commanding to be holy in verses 15-16. Ask: What is significant about the fact that Peter tells readers to “be” holy, not “make” themselves holy? Explain Peter was urging believers who have been made alive in Christ to be what they already are in Christ because of the miracle of regeneration.

Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 83). Determine some wrong perceptions people have about the Spirit and truths we must understand about the Spirit, using remarks from Day Two (p. 83-84) to add to the discussion.

Step 4. Holy Vision

Read the first three sentences of Day Three (p. 84). Refer back to 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 and ask how the Spirit gives us holy vision.

Ask adults if they’ve ever seen videos of sight-impaired babies being fitted with glasses. Ask: Who is the first person that baby usually sees and how do they respond? How might that illustrate who we first see and how we respond when the Spirit gives sight to our dead eyes?Evaluate why holy vision is so vital to a holy life.

Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 85). Request two volunteers read 1 John 3:6 and 3 John 11. Determine the connection between seeing and sinning. Ask: What must we see if we are to be holy as God is holy? Draw attention to the Day Three Note (p. 86).

Summarize Exodus 34:29-35 (Day Three. p. 86), then read 2 Corinthians 3:7-11, emphasizing every form of the word “glory.” Discuss Day Three, activity 2 (p. 87). Request someone read the last short paragraph of Day Three (p. 87).

Step 5. Glories to Behold, Part 1

Note Days Four and Five examine glories to behold in Jesus, starting with the glory of His love. Consider why “the Spirit has to reorient, deepen, and reveal the differences between the love we’ve known and the love Christ has displayed” (p. 87). Use Day Four remarks (pp. 87-88) and activity 1 (p. 88) to add to that discussion. Ask: How can beholding the glory of Christ’s love make us more loving like Him?

State: “Another glory to behold is Christ’s peace” (p. 88). Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 89). Invite a volunteer to read Mark 4:35-41. Ask: Jesus was right there in the boat with them, so why were the disciples so afraid? Read and discuss the last paragraph of Day Four (p. 89). Ask: How can beholding the glory of Christ’s peace make us more at peace like Him?

Step 6. Glories to Behold, Part 2

Read the first sentence of Day Five (p. 89). Examine how God’s kindness goes far deeper than being nice. Invite volunteers to read Matthew 5:45 and 2 Corinthians 8:9. Examine how God shows kindness to all people.

Ask: How can we see and savor the glory of God’s kindness? Why will we become more like Jesus when we do?

Request a volunteer read Hebrews 12:14. Discuss: Why must we pursue holiness? How do we pursue holiness? Why will we see the Lord when we pursue holiness? What’s the relationship between spiritual sight and spiritual transformation?

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Invite responses to Day Five, activity 2 (p. 91).

Ask: How does this lesson on holy vision compel you to pray?

Read Ephesians 1:17-19 as your closing prayer.

