

Holier Than Thou

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Lesson Title: “Holy How?: Behold We Come” (pp. 95-110)

Session 7

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The main point of this lesson is: By beholding Jesus, we become holy.

Focus on this goal: To help adults look to Jesus for their model for life and living

Key Bible Passage: Ephesians 4:20-24

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask adults to indicate if they played with Transformer© toys or watched Transformer movies when they were kids (or since). Evaluate reasons those toys and movies are so popular. Ask: When are times you wish you could transform into something else? What would you like to transform into and why?

Declare that, for followers of Jesus, transformation is not a fantasy; it is a reality that we live into. Request a volunteer read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 108).

Step 2. Beholding, Part 1

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. Explain the apostle Paul was possibly connecting the believer’s transformation with Christ’s transfiguration. Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 17:1-2. Analyze how Christ’s transfiguration is different from and similar to a believer’s transformation. Request someone read the Day One Note (p. 95).

Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 96). Read the Day One paragraph (p. 96) beginning with “It’s important to state that . . . .”

Discuss Day One, activity 2 (pp. 96-97). Ask: What is to be our attitude as we work out our salvation? What is our energizing power for working out our salvation?

Consider how 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Philippians 2:12-13 emphasize sanctification is a process rather than an instantaneous transformation. State this process occurs as we actively behold—look to—the Lord.

Step 3. Beholding, Part 2

Read John 1:29,35-36 and ask: Is it as simple for us to “Behold the Lamb of God” as it was for John the Baptist and his disciples? Why? So where can we look to behold the Lord and His glory?

Draw attention to the Day Two Note (p. 98). Invite responses to Day Two, activity 1 (p. 98). Discuss Day Two, activity 2 (p. 99).

Step 4. Beholding and Believing

State the Pharisees, religious leaders in Jesus’s day, were the epitome of people who know God’s Word but aren’t changed by it at all. Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 100). Ask: How could they behold Christ in the flesh yet not become like Him? How do the Pharisees challenge us today?

Request adults skim John 6:1-15 and state what occurred after the John 5 encounter with the Pharisees. Ask: What would the thousands of people Jesus miraculously fed need the next day?

Invite a volunteer to read John 6:22-36. Ask: These people had beheld Jesus; what would it take for them to become like Jesus? What is the truth any person must believe about Jesus if they are going to be transformed into His image and why? Read the last paragraph of Day Three (p. 102).

Step 5. Believing and Becoming, Part 1

Invite adults to identify a time when they felt totally filled up on carbs. Ask if they wanted anything else to eat and why. Analyze how believing Jesus is the Bread of life can make a person holy (see the first paragraph of Day Four, pp. 102-103).

Ask: Why do we sin? What are we to do with all the desires that compete for our hearts? Read Psalm 73:25-26. Ask: Why would sin have little control over us if that was our true heart’s cry?

Invite a volunteer to read the Day Four paragraph (p. 104) beginning with “When God is believed to be Bread . . . .” State: “Put[ting] to death what is earthly in us” (p. 104) is part of the process of being transformed into Christ’s image and we want to do that when we behold the beauty of Christ in Scripture.

Read Ephesians 4:20-24. Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 105).

Step 6. Believing and Becoming, Part 2

Read the Day Five Note (p. 106). Determine how Ephesians 4:25-32 (from Day Four, activity 2, p. 105) describes how a person who beholds Christ becomes as lovely as He is.

Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 106). Ask what happens to our relationship with the world when we look to Christ with faith. Point out we are set apart—sanctified, made holy.

Identify some attitudes and actions of a person who is “set apart from the world and the things it delights in” (p. 107). Ask how the world might respond to these sanctified actions and attitudes.

Invite a volunteer to read the last full paragraph of Day Five (p. 107).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Remind adults that the writer’s goals for this study are: 1) To prove God is holy and “Since He is . . . He can and should be trusted” and 2) “To show you God. There is no one greater. No one better. No one worthy of our entire selves. As you see Him as He is, you’ll want to be just like Him too—Holy” (study introduction, p. 6).

Ask: How have those goals been met in your life through this study? What might it look like for us to live out those goals daily?

Close in prayer.

