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Servants for His Glory

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Lesson Title: “Be a Set-Apart Servant” (pp. 35-48)

Session 3

March 17, 2024

The main point of this lesson is: God’s servants are to be set apart to holy lives and holy living.

Focus on this goal: To help adults participate with the Holy Spirit in their sanctification

Key Bible Passage: 2 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Peter 1:15-16

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask adults what items in their homes are set apart for special purposes. Inquire how they treat those items differently than ordinary items and why. State: Whether it’s quality clothing that is dry-clean only, dishes for special occasions, or tools used only for a specific purpose, we probably all set apart some items because we value them and expect something of them. In a similar fashion, God values His children and expects something of us. Invite a volunteer to read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 46).

Step 2. Introduction

Read Hebrews 12:14. Guide the group to consider why holiness is so important. Explore how God’s holiness is different from a believer’s holiness.

Analyze how sanctification is similar to and different from salvation. Request adults follow along as you read the second paragraph of Day One (p. 35). Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 36). Note Session 1 examined the truth that if we are going to be servants for God’s glory, we must focus on being before doing.

Ask learners how they see the concept of “being before doing” in 1 Peter 1:15-16. State that concept becomes even clearer when those verses are examined in their larger context. Request a volunteer read 1 Peter 1:3-5. Determine who believers are in Christ. Ask a volunteer to read 1 Peter 1:13-14. Ask: Because of who believers are, what are we to do to pursue holiness?

Use the material in Day One (pp. 36-37) to examine the two Hebrew words for holy. Invite a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 6:16–7:1. Guide adults to identify: 1. God’s three commands (v. 17); 2. The reason for the command (v. 16); 3. God’s three promises (vv. 17-18); 4. The conclusion (7:1). Ask: How do you see both the call for “kodesh” and “qadosh” in this passage? How do you see that sanctification is a work we do in cooperation with God?

Read the last sentence of Day One (p. 37). Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 37). Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 4:20-24. Consider how those verses emphasize that “being” comes before “doing.” Declare: We can do all these actions of putting off and on because of the new creation Christ has made us to be.

Step 3. Holiness Has a Price

**Read** the first paragraph of Day Two (p. 38), **inviting** adults to share if they agree or disagree with the author’s remarks and why. **Analyze** the difference between paying the price for being holy and for being “holier-than-thou.” **Consider** how believers trivialize God’s holiness when they try to be like everyone else, and when they act “holier-than-thou.”

**State** it is clear from Scripture that God will not allow His holiness to be trivialized. **Invite** responses to Day Two, activity 1 (p. 38). **Enlist** a volunteer to read Numbers 20:1-13. **Determine** warnings and applications twenty-first century believers can draw from the Leviticus 10 and Numbers 20 episodes.

**Discuss** Day Two, activity 2 (p. 40). **Declare** Philippians 2:12-13 emphasizes being comes before doing, **Read** 1 Corinthians 6:11 and **explain** believers possess a positional sanctification that is all God’s work that was accomplished when Christ saved us. Believers also have the responsibility to participate in a progressive sanctification; we must work out what God has already worked in us. With a sense of weight and reverence, and great confidence in God’s power, we work out our growth in Christ.

Step 4. Holiness Is the Number One Requirement   
for Communion with God

**Ask:** What’s essential for a good physical workout? **Agree** making exercise a priority is absolutely essential. Ask: What must be a believer’s number one priority if they desire to interact with God? **Request** adults give reasons for their responses.

**Read** the Day Three paragraph (p. 41) beginning with, “The list of persons and things . . . .” **Discuss** Day Three, activity 1 (p. 41). **Ask:** Do priorities always require sacrifices? Explain. What kinds of sacrifices must people make to keep physical workouts a priority?

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 2 (p. 41).

Step 5. Holiness Requires Discipline

**Declare** another thing that is essential for a good physical workout is discipline. **Discuss** Day Four, activity 1 (p. 42). **Explain** how the phrase “train yourself” may refer to getting rid of hindrances to growth (pp. 42-43). **Invite** a volunteer to read Hebrews 12:1.

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 2 (p. 43) in a general, rather than personal, sense.

**Read** and **discuss** the last paragraph of Day Four (p. 44).

Step 6. What Can We Do to Avoid Stumbling?

**Ask** adults if they prefer to work out physically on their own or with other people and why. **Consider** why close friendships with other believers is essential for believers working out their sanctification.

**Discuss** Final Reflection (p. 45).

**Discuss** Day Five, activity 2 (p. 45).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Encourage** adults to silently consider Day Five, activity 1 (p. 44). **Request** they prayerfully consider asking someone in the group to support them as they pursue holiness.

**Close in prayer,** using 1 Peter 1:15-16 as a template for your prayer.

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