

Facilitator's Guide

Holy Living

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LIKE CHRIST



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Holy Living

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SESSION

1

WHAT IS HOLINESS?

Focus Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:13—2:3

Session Goal: To understand and define what holiness is all about.

OPENING OUR MINDS

Option 1

Write the words “Holiness is...” on a whiteboard. Invite group members to complete the statement. (Possible answers include: Christian perfection, godliness, perfect love, living the sanctified life, God’s standard.)

- **How would you define “holiness”?**
- **What are other definitions you have heard?**

Today, we are going to examine what holiness means in the life of a believer.

Option 2

Invite your group to respond to the following:

- **Describe the characteristics of a person you would consider “holy.”**
- **Think about a person who is/was the most holy person you know. Why did he/she seem holy to you?**
- **Is being holy possible in this lifetime? Why or why not?**

Today, we are going to get a better understanding of what holiness is all about.

Imaginative Option

Divide your group in half. Tell the group that you are going to debate the question, “Is it possible for a person to be holy?” Assign one group to argue “yes” and the other group to argue “no.”

OPENING THE WORD

Understanding 1 Peter 1:13—2:3

In these verses, Peter points people to holy living. Taking into account God’s promises and the confidence we have in Him, the people should live lives ready for Jesus’ return. Peter begins with telling them to be “alert” and “fully sober,” setting their hope in Jesus.

Peter calls the people to be holy as God is holy. He reminds them that the Father redeemed them with the blood of Christ. It is through Christ that holiness is made possible. Because the Father raised and glorified Jesus, we can put our complete faith and hope in Him. This same resurrection power from God is available to all who believe.

Peter points to the truth that all believers who have been born again through the blood of Jesus should obey God’s truth and love one another. Our salvation is not of human origin (perishable), but through the “living and enduring word of God” (the imperishable). Unlike the flowers and grass that eventually wither and die, God’s Word endures forever.

Peter goes on to say (2:1-3) that believers should rid themselves of those attitudes and actions that hinders and/or jeopardizes their love for brothers and sisters in Christ. Like a newborn craves milk, believers should crave the good things of God. The more they desire the things of God, the less they will desire the things of this world.

Option 1

Invite group members to help you compile a profile for Christian (holy) living as the following Scriptures below are read. After each passage is read, write the characteristic of holy living mentioned in these verse(s) on a dry erase board.

- *Deuteronomy 18:13* (blameless)
- *Leviticus 11:45* (holy)
- *Leviticus 20:7* (consecrated)
- *2 Corinthians 7:1* (clean)
- *1 John 2:6* (Christlike)
- *1 Peter 1:13—2:3* (self-controlled, hopeful, obedient, holy, loving, born-again, craving the Word)

Follow up by going back over the list, define each, and give an example of each characteristic in action. Share with the group that holiness means desiring a deeper walk with God. It is a willingness to surrender ourselves completely to God. In turn, God promises to give us the strength and power to live godly lives.

Option 2

Share with the group that God wants each person to come to salvation. He also wants each person to become more like Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Living the holy life means totally consecrating, or giving full

control, of our lives to God. It's like inviting a guest into our home and giving him or her total control of our house. When we allow the Holy Spirit full reign in our lives, we grow in faith and become more Christlike in thought and character.

Read 1 Peter 1:13—2:3.

- **What do you think it means to be “alert” and “fully sober”?**
- **Peter says we are to be holy as God is holy. How is this possible? How are Peter’s words “do not conform to evil desires” related to holy living?**
- **In what ways does Jesus’ death and resurrection give us a hope for the future?**
- **How is obeying God’s Word and loving others part of what it means to live the holy life?**
- **Why is it important for us to rid ourselves of those things listed in verse 1? In what ways do those things hinder us from truly loving others as God commands?**
- **In what ways does craving the good things of God help us live holy lives? How does craving God create less room for the things of this world?**

OPENING OUR HEARTS

Option 1

Either verbally or writing them on a dry erase board, share the following four guidelines for holy living.

1. *Put God first.* This means making God Lord of your life, relationships, finances, etc.
2. *Give the Holy Spirit free reign to work in your life.* This means allowing God’s Spirit to infiltrate every area of your life.

3. *Allow God to use you for His kingdom.* This means being open to be the hands and feet of Christ in your world.
4. *Be yourself in Christ.* This means being who you are, but letting God transform your life into what He wants you to become for His glory.

Option 2

Close by reading 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24: *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.*

Then, invite your group to bow their heads. Before leading them in prayer, ask them to consider the following questions silently to themselves.

- *Is my life fully committed to God?*
- *Have I allowed the Holy Spirit to take full control of all areas of my life?*
- *Do I desire a deeper walk with God?*

Imaginative Option

Close by reading the words to the hymn *Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated*. You may consider displaying the words as group members quietly reflect on their life with God.

Connect

WEEK 1

What is Holiness?

THIS WEEK: We will define and gain a better understanding of what it means to live the holy life.

THINK ABOUT THIS: Is it really possible to be holy? If so, how? If not, why?

PRAYER CONCERNS: