

LEADER GUIDE



Dive Deeper HOLINESS OF GOD

SERMON NOTES:

11 OCTOBER 2020

Title: *The holiness of God*

1. The centrality of holiness
2. The consequences of holiness
3. The conundrum of holiness

COMMUNITY:

★ = Zoom Friendly

Share a time when you were disciplined, reprimanded and totally deserved it (like traffic ticket, by parents, etc).

Use this conversation to establish that everyone has done something wrong and isn't perfect.

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

(Italicized notations are for leader info)

Did anyone try a "faithfully following Jesus" activity from last week? How did it go?

Use this time to encourage and celebrate wins within your group (how ever small or seemingly unsuccessful any attempts were).

★ **Does anyone have any lingering thoughts on the love of God from last week?**

Because God's loving nature is tied into this week's discussion on holiness (and the consequences and conundrum it causes), it makes sense to review the high points of God's love.

Define holiness. What parts of the definition that Pastor Brian gave stuck out to you?

Some of the phrases that Pastor Brian used to define holiness were "absolutely absent of evil, perfectly pure and moral, set apart from something, set apart for something, no darkness (God is Light - 1 John 1:5)". Use this time to set up a good working definition of God's holiness for the rest of your discussion.

Discuss "All of Christianity falls apart if God is not holy".

This discussion speaks to the centrality of God's holiness to his gospel plan. If God's moral standard was attainable, Jesus's sacrifice on the cross would be unnecessary.



Choose one of the 4 people presented under the Centrality of the Holiness of God: Moses (Exodus 3:1-5), Joshua (Joshua 5:13-15), Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-5), or John (Revelation 4:6-9). Read the passage noted and discuss the impact of the holiness of God had as described there. How can people relate to a holy God? How should they?

Moses and Joshua were told to remove their sandals as they came before God. They were on Holy ground. How do you prepare yourself when you approach God? In prayer, worship or Bible study do you come before God with the knowledge of God's Holiness and the reverence deserving Holy ground?

 **Talk about how God's love and holiness fit together. How can God be both loving and holy (and therefore wrathful)?**

This question leans into the conundrum of God's holiness. God is perfectly loving (desiring to pour out goodness on his image bearers) and also perfectly holy (absolutely pure, requiring him to pour out wrath on his sinful image bearers). A sneak peak, next week Pastor Brian will be talking about God's mercy and presenting the Gospel. If there you think there is a good opportunity to share the gospel this week with your group, go for it. Don't leave them hanging for truth if the door is open. (See the Bible Project Video on Holiness in the Resources section to help.)

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS:

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION

How does God's holiness change your life?

RESOURCES

Video:

The Bible Project put out a helpful video on the idea of holiness. Watch it here: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/holiness/>

Books:

Knowing God by J.I. Packer.
The Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

Before you spend intentional time with God this week, make it a point to reflect on the fact that God is holy. Take extra time to confess sin (darkness & impurity) in your life. Grieve over the fact that God hates sin.

JOURNAL PROMPT

How should I treat others in light of God's holiness?



GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Memorize 1 John 1:5.

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him." (CSB)

This is the verse that our kids are memorizing in Kids @Home. If members of your group have children, encourage them to recite this verse to each other at a meal this week.

To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.