

Timeless Truths for Modern Disciples

5. How Do I Live a Holy Life in an Unholy Culture?

1 PETER 1:14-16

LESSON OVERVIEW (FOR THE LEADER)

This lesson continues our *Timeless Truths for Modern Disciples* series by addressing one of the greatest challenges every follower of Jesus faces: **living a holy life in a culture that constantly pulls us away from God.**

Many people think holiness is simply about avoiding sin or being morally better than everyone else. The Bible presents a much richer picture. Holiness means being set apart for God. It is the Holy Spirit producing a life that reflects God's character and demonstrates that we belong to Him.

The main point of the lesson is that holiness is not primarily about rule-keeping—it is about belonging to God and becoming more like Him.

The lesson emphasized three important truths:

- **Holiness means being set apart.**
- **Holiness flows from our relationship with God.**
- **Holiness grows as we separate from sin and saturate ourselves with God's truth.**

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP NOTES

If children are present, involve them intentionally throughout the group.

Before beginning, assign one child to be the “Kid Reporter.” Let them know their job is to listen carefully because at the end of the gathering they will share the most important thing they learned.

Provide children with a Listening Sheet and encourage them to complete it during the teaching and discussion. They may write, draw, or do both depending on their age.

Also encourage children to draw a picture that illustrates the main lesson. At the end of the gathering, give them an opportunity to show and explain their drawing to the group.

Ice Breaker

"Have you ever felt out of place because everyone around you was doing something you knew wasn't right?"

TRANSITION:

"Following Jesus often means living differently from the culture around us. This lesson explores what biblical holiness really is and how disciples can faithfully live for Christ in an unholy world."

READ 1 PETER 1:14-16

Discussion Questions

1. The lesson described holiness as "being set apart." How is that different from simply "being a good person"?
2. Why do you think it's important to remember that holiness is rooted in our relationship with God rather than trying to earn His approval?
3. Romans 12 says, "Do not be conformed to this world." In what ways do you think our culture pressures Christians to conform today?
4. What is the best advice you could give your fellow group members that has helped you be holy in the unholy culture?

KIDS' QUESTION

1. What are some ways someone can tell that a person belongs to Jesus?

Prayer Time

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

- Leader, as you begin the prayer time, explain to the group that tonight we want to slow down and genuinely seek the Lord together, not just rush through a closing prayer.
- On the next page is a list of prayer prompts based on this lesson. If you want, you can cut these out into individual strips of paper with one prayer prompt on each, and put those prayers in a basket.
- Pass the basket of prayer prompts around the circle and invite anyone who is willing to pray to take one.
- Let everyone know there is no pressure to pray out loud, and children are welcome to participate too.
- Encourage people to quietly read their prompt and begin thinking about how they want to pray when the time comes.
- Begin the prayer time yourself by leading a short opening prayer that helps the group focus on God, become calm and attentive, and invites the Holy Spirit to guide the time.
- Then leave space for others to pray one at a time using their prompts.
- Don't be afraid of a little silence between prayers.
- When it feels like the prayer time is naturally slowing down, close by thanking God for hearing His people, praying for the needs that were shared, and asking God to deepen our love for Him and strengthen our faith in Him throughout the week.

Before dismissing, invite the Kid Reporter to share the most important thing they learned. Then allow any children who would like to do so to show their drawings and briefly explain them to the group.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray that God would help us become more like Him in our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

Pray that we would remember that holiness is about belonging to God, not earning His approval.

Pray for a greater desire to be set apart for God's purposes.

Pray that God would reveal areas of our lives where we have become conformed to the world.

Pray for courage to stand for Christ when our culture pressures us to compromise.

Pray for believers who are battling temptation, that God would provide strength and a way of escape.

Pray that we would quickly flee temptation instead of trying to fight it in our own strength.

Pray for a deeper hunger for God's Word, that it would shape our hearts and minds.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would produce His fruit in our lives.

Pray that we would walk in the Spirit each day rather than gratifying the desires of the flesh.

Pray that God would help us choose obedience even when it is costly.

Pray for wisdom to recognize worldly thinking that quietly influences our hearts.

Pray for our pastor, that he would model a holy, Christ-centered life as he leads our church.

Pray for our deacons, teachers, and ministry leaders, that they would faithfully pursue holiness in both public and private life.

Pray for marriages in our church, that husbands and wives would encourage one another toward holiness.

Pray for parents, that they would model holy living and teach their children to love God's ways.

Pray for the children and students of our church, that they would remain faithful to Christ despite cultural pressure.

Pray for those struggling with shame over past sin, that they would rest in Christ's forgiveness and pursue holiness with hope.

Pray for those caught in ongoing sinful habits, that God would bring repentance, freedom, and lasting transformation.

Pray that our small groups would become places where believers encourage one another toward holiness.

Pray that our church would be known not for self-righteousness, but for joyful, Christlike holiness.

Pray for opportunities to lovingly point unbelievers to Jesus through the way we live.

Pray that we would remember that greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.

Pray that God would give us perseverance to remain faithful in an increasingly unholy culture.

Pray that our lives would clearly show that we belong to Jesus and bring glory to Him every day.

Kids' Listening Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE(S):

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I LEARNED:

A WORD I HEARD TODAY:

Word: _____

What does it mean?

SOMETHING I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND:

DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU LEARNED (ON THE BACK):