



SMALL GROUP LEADER

Holy

Holy

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 6:1-8 & 1 Peter 1:15-16

Group leaders should:

- **"Set the table" for interaction and group discussion by (4 minutes):**
 - explaining the idea of the week's theme
 - explaining the context of the main passage(s) to be discussed
- **Debrief from weekly reading (8-10 minutes)**
- **Facilitating, Discipling, Guiding, Shepherding (30 minutes)**

Small Group Questions:

- 1. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the word "holy?"**
- 2. How does the holiness of God relate to you?**
- 3. How long does it take to grow in holiness?**
- 4. What things can you do to grow in holiness?**
- 5. What is the Holy Spirit telling you to do this week to grow in holiness?**

SET THE TABLE

Holy means “other,” “set apart,” and “unique.” Holy is the opposite of common, ordinary, and secular. This is why we speak of God as being holy other. He is not like us. He is God and He is absolutely holy!

Holiness as a theme runs from the beginning to the end of the Bible. The Bible does not introduce God as holy. In Genesis 1, He merely arrives as the holy creator God. He is holy or “other” than His creation because He is the creator.

God’s creation is also holy. This is true because God’s creation was set apart for Him to dwell with His people. Holiness was the purpose for which God created. Everything was set apart to and for God.

After the Fall of man in Genesis 3, God begins sanctifying (to re-holy) a people and a place. Everything in the Old Testament, the people, the place, the law, the sacrificial system, the temple... All point to Jesus.

Jesus fulfills the holiness of God on earth. He satisfies the perfect demands of the law. He brings the holiness of God to man. Jesus is holy in all he is, says, and does. There is no other person like him. Jesus brings the “separateness” of God to us. Jesus makes the unholy (unclean), holy (clean).

The people of Jesus are holy because the Holy One lives in us and as Christians we live in Christ. As saints the moniker (label) over us is “holy ones” We are declared holy by our justification. We grow in holiness through sanctification. One day soon we will be holy in all ways- glorification.

Holy People- the Saved
Holy Place- the Church
Holy Purpose- Making Disciples that make disciples

Justification

(Spirit)

I have been
made holy

Sanctification

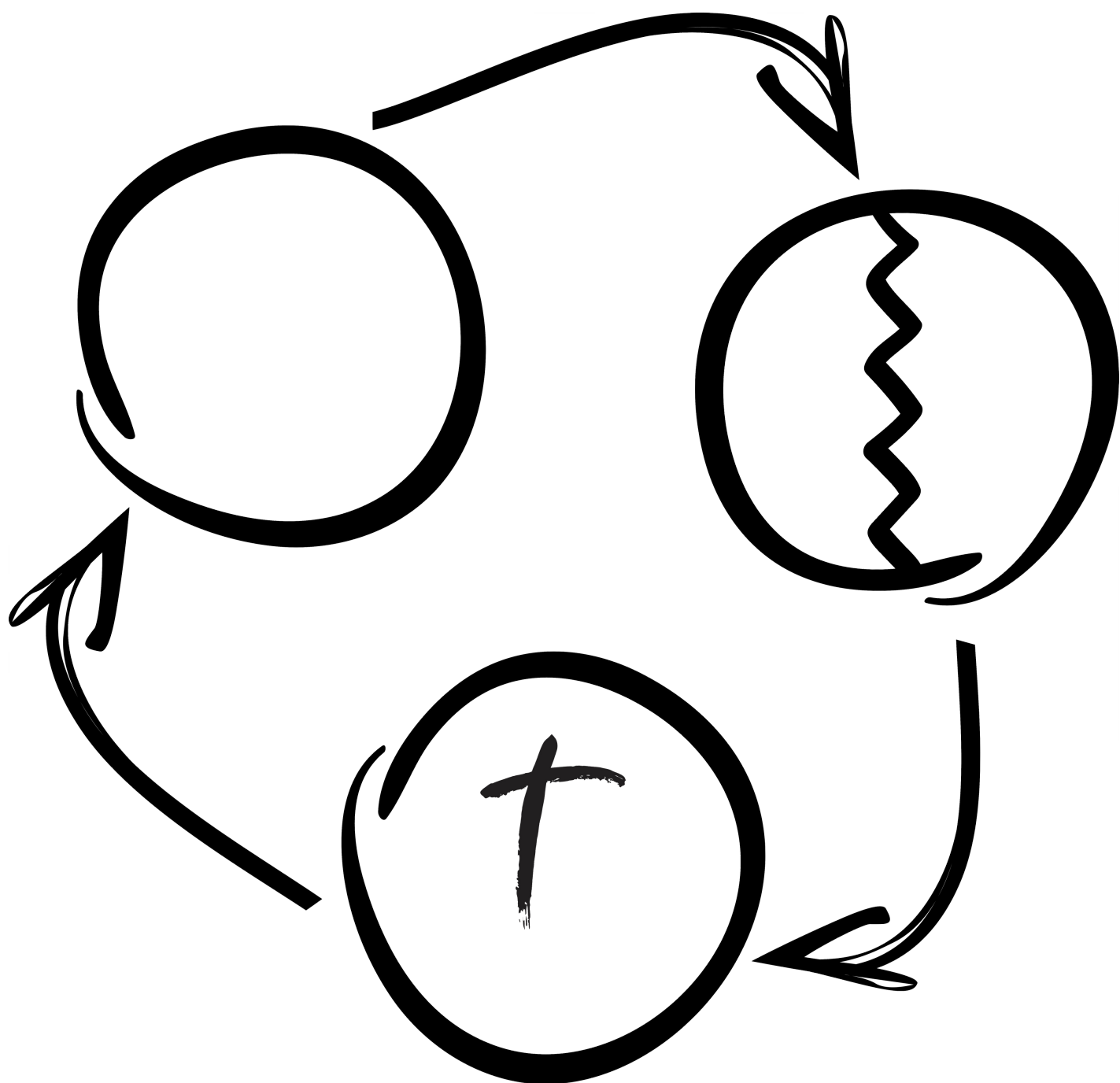
(Soul)

I am being
made holy

Glorification

(Body)

I will be
made holy



Holy - Commentary

Holy is awesome and dangerous. Isaiah 8:34, 'But the Lord of host, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.'

Understanding holiness is indispensable for you to have a biblical view of God and an intimate relationship with Him. Holy is essential in being a disciple of Jesus. Holy explains why God must judge sin.

The Old Testament word for holy, kados, and the New Testament word, hagios, both mean distinct, separate, and set apart. When speaking of the holiness of God it means that He alone is absolutely and perfectly holy. It is His infinite moral perfection. When these two words speak of holiness in the life of God's people, they mean being set apart to God and dedicated to God. They include purity and righteousness of life.

The Holiness of God -- Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah saw the Sovereign Lord on His throne exalted on high. His robe flowed down to earth, and the hem of the robe filled the temple. Isaiah saw the seraphim before the throne. With two wings they covered their eyes. These angelic beings minister before the Lord continually, but the awesome of God's glory and holiness were too great for them to look upon. With two wings they covered their feet, which speaks of their creatureliness and the fact they were standing on the holiest of ground. He heard them cry out to one another continually, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of host, the whole earth is filled with His glory." When Isaiah saw the thrice holy God, two things happened. 1) God's holiness exposed his sinfulness. Isaiah confesses, "Woe is me." This led to God purifying and transforming his life. 2) It compelled him to separate his life and dedicate it to the LORD, "Here am I, send me."

A Holy Creation --Genesis 1-2; Revelation 4:8-11

God created the world and all that is in it. Everything created was very good, whole, and holy. Creation reflected the holiness of the Creator. God created man in His image to walk with Him in holiness. The creation was set apart for holy God to dwell with his people. God created marriage to be holy relationship as a picture of Jesus's sacrificial love for His bride the church.

A Holy People -- Genesis 12 & Leviticus

In Genesis 12 God covenanted with Abraham to make of him a nation. The people of Israel were the LORD's called out ones. Israel was to be holy before the LORD. He gave them His holy law. In the book of Leviticus, He instructs Israel in purity to show them how comprehensive holiness is. It touches every area of life.

Holy - Commentary

A Holy Place -- Psalm 96:9

God gave Israel a land and in so doing made it holy. In the land was the mountain of the Lord where the temple was built and the sacrificial system observed. It was the place the people of God were to worship Him in the beauty of holiness.

The people and the place in the Old Testament were shadows of Jesus.

Jesus -- 2 Corinthians 5:21

In Jesus all the Old Testament holiness shadows are made real. He is the embodiment of holiness. He had a ministry of holiness. For example, in Jesus' day lepers were the picture of uncleanness. But when lepers came to Jesus, He both healed and cleansed them. He came to suffer for holiness. In the incarnation He took upon Himself the form of a man. He lived a sinless life. On the cross He died in our place for our sins as God the Father judged our sins in the body of His Son. He who knew no sin became sin for us so that we made be made the righteousness of God in him.

From Jesus to Us

Positional Holiness: In Christ, we have been declared holy, justified. This position is eternal and never undone.

Practical Holiness: The call to God's positionally holy people is to practically live out their holiness in Christ.

A Holy People -- 1 Peter 1:15-16

Jesus' redeemed people are called to be holy, to grow in holiness. Some hear that and wonder how can I be holy? You can because of the on-going sanctifying work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Our response is to walk in the Spirit and to set our lives apart daily to God (Romans 12:1).

A Holy Place -- Colossians 3:12-18

The church as the body of Christ and temple of the Holy Spirit, is to be holy. Those who are a part of the body are to be promoters of holiness in attitudes and actions.

A Holy New Creation -- Revelation 21:1-8

John saw the new heavens and the new earth, he saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem descending from Heaven. It is the dwelling place of God. And He will dwell with us, and we will be His people. He will make all things new.