



Growth Group Guide – Kick Off 2025 Week 1

Text: Isaiah 6:1-8

Theme: HOLINESS: God Is Holy

Icebreaker

- When was the last time you were completely overwhelmed by something—nature, music, a moment in life—where words fell short? What did that experience stir in you?
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Discussion & Application: Read the Text Together: Isaiah 6:1-8

1. Seeing God for Who He Is

- Isaiah saw the Lord “high and exalted” (Isaiah 6:1). What does it mean for you personally, in the chaos of life, to remember that God is still on the throne?
- How would a clearer vision of God’s holiness change the way you face fear, uncertainty, or cultural chaos today?

2. Seeing Ourselves Clearly

- Isaiah’s first response to seeing God was, “Woe is me, I am ruined.” Why is it essential that we see our own sinfulness before we can truly experience God’s grace?
- What are some ways we tend to minimize or excuse our sin, and how does Isaiah’s example challenge us?

3. Experiencing God’s Grace

- The coal touched Isaiah’s lips, symbolizing cleansing through sacrifice. How does the cross of Christ fulfill this picture?
- Have you personally experienced God’s grace in a way that moved you from guilt to joy? How can you cultivate deeper thankfulness for the Gospel this year?

4. Serving God Wholeheartedly

- Isaiah’s response to grace was, “Here am I, send me.” Why is service to God the natural overflow of seeing His holiness and receiving His forgiveness?
- Where is God calling you to say, “Here am I, send me”—in your home, workplace, Cloverdale Baptist, or community? Be specific.

5. Holiness in Daily Life

- 1 Peter 1 reminds us, “Be holy, for I am holy.” In practical terms, what does it look like to be “set apart by God and for God” in your daily choices, relationships, and habits?
 - As a group, what steps can we take this year to help one another pursue holiness with joy?
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Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Reflect: Where are you right now in Isaiah’s journey—seeing God, seeing your sin, receiving grace, or offering yourself in service?
 - Pray: Ask God to give each person in the group a fresh vision of His holiness, a deeper experience of His grace, and a renewed passion to serve Him with joy.
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Growth Group Guide – Kick Off 2025 Week 2

Text: Romans 5:1–11

Theme: God Makes Me Holy

Icebreaker

- Think of a time when you received something you didn't deserve (a gift, a kindness, forgiveness). How did it impact you?
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Discussion & Application: Read The Text First...Romans 5:1-11

1. Peace with God (vv. 1–2)

- Paul says we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. What does this peace mean, and how is it different from worldly peace?
- Where do you most need to rest in this peace right now—in relationships, work, or personal struggles?

2. Rejoicing in Suffering (vv. 3–5)

- Paul teaches that suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope. How have you seen God use difficulty in your life to shape your holiness?
- Why is it important that our hope is anchored in God's love "poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit"?

3. God's Love Demonstrated (vv. 6–8)

- Paul highlights that Christ died for us "while we were still sinners." How does remembering this truth humble and transform us?
- In what ways do we still try to earn God's love instead of resting in His grace?

4. Reconciliation Through Christ (vv. 9–11)

- What does it mean to be reconciled to God, and why is this central to our holiness?
- Paul says we "rejoice in God" because of reconciliation. How can rejoicing in God reshape your outlook on daily life and relationships?

5. Growing in Holiness

- If holiness is both God's gift and our calling, what practical steps can you take this week to live out your identity as one who is "set apart"?
- How can our group encourage one another in this pursuit of holiness—not with guilt, but with gospel-driven joy?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Reflect: Which truth from Romans 5 (peace, perseverance, God's love, reconciliation, rejoicing) do you most need to hold onto this week?
- Pray: Thank God for His love demonstrated in Christ, and ask Him to grow holiness in each person's life through His Spirit.

Growth Group Guide – Week 3

Text: Ephesians 1:3–10

Theme: Holiness – Set Apart to Praise

Icebreaker

- Share one small thing from this past week that you're genuinely thankful for. Why that?
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Discussion & Application: Read The Text Before You Start: Ephesians 1:3-10

1. Realize His Provision (v. 7)

- Paul says we are redeemed through Christ's blood and forgiven of our sins. How does remembering the cost of our redemption stir true thanksgiving?
- What are some practical ways to keep the cross central so that gratitude is not stolen by "surface situations"?

2. Realize Our Position (vv. 3–5)

- Verse 3 says we have *every spiritual blessing in Christ*. What does this mean to you personally? What blessings do you often overlook, and how might gratitude reshape how you see them?
- Paul highlights our adoption as God's children. How should being chosen and loved as His sons and daughters change the way we face hardships and disappointments?

3. Realize Our Purpose (vv. 6, 11)

- Paul repeats that our salvation is *to the praise of His glorious grace*. How does this truth reshape the way you view your daily life, relationships, and struggles?
- If our purpose is to glorify God with thanksgiving, what are some specific ways we can live more intentionally for His praise this week?

4. Battling a Thankless Heart

- The sermon mentioned how thanksgiving can be "stolen" by surface pains and problems. Where are you most prone to lose sight of gratitude?
 - What truths about God's provision, position, or purpose do you need to realign with in order to restore a heart of thankfulness?
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Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Reflect: Which truth from Ephesians 1 (provision, position, purpose) do you most need to anchor yourself in this week?
- Pray: Repent of any thankless spirit, rejoice in Christ's redemption, and ask God to make thanksgiving the natural overflow of your heart and life.

Growth Group Guide – Week 4

Text: 1 Peter 1:13–25

Theme: Holiness – Mandated to Pursue

Icebreaker

- When you were younger, what was a “house rule” in your family that shaped the way you lived? How did it help (or frustrate) you?
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Discussion & Application

1. Right Thinking (vv. 13, 23–25)

- Peter tells us to “prepare our minds for action.” What does this practically look like in your daily life?
- How does being saturated in God’s Word shape the way we think about holiness, temptation, and obedience?
- Where do you see worldly thinking creeping into your life? How can you take steps to “set your hope fully” on Christ instead?

2. Radical Living (vv. 14–17)

- Peter calls us to live as “obedient children” and not conform to our old ways. What are some of the strongest cultural pressures pulling Christians back into conformity with the world?
- Holiness is not just avoiding sin, but also joyfully submitting to God’s ways. Where might God be calling you to take a step of radical obedience right now?
- What would it look like to live with a healthy, reverent fear of God in the details of your week?

3. Real Impact (vv. 14, 22)

- How does pursuing holiness increase our impact as witnesses in the world?
- In verse 22, Peter ties holiness to “sincere brotherly love.” Why is love essential to holiness, and how might God be calling you to love others more earnestly?
- Think about your workplace, family, or community—where could your pursuit of holiness make the greatest impact?

4. Fighting the Battle for Holiness

- The sermon reminded us that holiness requires both *word saturation* and *willing submission*. How are you doing in each of these areas?
 - What sins or worldly habits do you need to “wrestle against” this week?
 - What does it practically mean for you to “kill sin before it kills you”?
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Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Reflect: Which of the three (Right Thinking, Radical Living, Real Impact) do you most need to grow in right now?
- Pray: Ask God to give you a passion for purity, a heart of love, and a mind anchored in His Word. Pray that He would use your group to live holy lives that make a real impact in your homes, church, and community.

Growth Group Guide – Week 5

Text: 1 Peter 2:9–12

Theme: Holiness – Set Apart to Reach

Icebreaker

- Growing up, who was someone that influenced you toward a bigger purpose in life (parent, teacher, coach, etc.)? What difference did it make?
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Discussion & Application

1. The Declaration: Belong (vv. 9–10)

- Peter describes believers with powerful titles: chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, God’s possession. Which of these most encourages you right now? Why?
- How does realizing that “we belong” to God and His people shape the way we view church involvement?
- What might change in your weekly priorities if you saw yourself as a “living stone” that the church needs in order to mature and grow?

2. The Demonstration: Build (vv. 11–12)

- Peter calls us to abstain from sinful desires that “wage war against our souls.” What desires most easily pull you away from holy living?
- How can pursuing holiness strengthen our witness to those who don’t yet know Christ?
- Share a practical way you can “demonstrate” your belonging to Christ this week at work, school, or in your neighborhood.

3. The Desire: Beacon (vv. 12)

- The ultimate goal is that others “glorify God” because of what they see in us. How does keeping God’s glory as our ultimate aim change the way we think about mission and evangelism?
- Where do you feel God is calling you right now to be more of a “beacon” for Him?
- What encouragement do you find in knowing that—even when mission is costly—God is glorified as you faithfully live set apart for Him?

4. Living It Out Together

- Holiness is not just about avoiding sin, but about being set apart *for service*. Where is God calling you to serve more intentionally in His church?
 - Who in your life right now needs to see the difference holiness makes? How can you live and speak in a way that points them toward Christ?
 - What might it look like for our Growth Group to be a “beacon” together in our community?
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Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Reflect: Am I living as someone who truly *belongs* to God and His people, who is *building* with my life, and shining as a *beacon* for His glory?
- Pray: Thank God for making us His possession through Christ. Ask Him to give us strength to abstain from sin, courage to serve, and boldness to live on mission for His glory.

Growth Group Notes – Week 6

Text: Romans 12:1–10

Theme: Holiness – Set Apart to Serve

Icebreaker

- Share about a time when you got to serve on a team (church, work, school, or sports). What did you enjoy about serving together, and what was challenging?
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Discussion & Application

1. Grace Motivated (Romans 12:1–2)

- Paul calls us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice *in view of God's mercy*. How does remembering the Gospel keep us from burnout or bitterness in serving?
- Where are you tempted to serve from the wrong motives (e.g., duty, guilt, recognition)? How can you realign your heart to serve out of grace?
- What practical rhythms help you keep God's mercy in clear view each week?

2. Grace Mandated (Romans 12:3–8)

- What does Paul mean when he says we are “one body in Christ, and individually members of one another”?
- How does this truth challenge the “spectator mentality” that is so common in the church today?
- What gifts or abilities has God given you that could be used more intentionally in building up His church?
- If someone is unsure of their gifts, what steps could they take to begin discovering and using them?

3. Grace Measured (Romans 12:9–10)

- Paul roots holiness in authentic love: “Let love be genuine.” How is biblical love different from cultural definitions of love?
- Verse 10 calls us to “outdo one another in showing honor.” What would it look like if our Growth Group lived this out together?
- Think about a current relationship in the church where love has been difficult. How might remembering God's love for you help you serve and honor that person?

4. Living It Out

- The sermon reminded us: “*Holiness means you are set apart to play a larger part.*” Where is God calling you right now to step into greater service for the sake of His body?
 - What is one practical, specific way you can serve in love this coming week—either in our church family or in your daily life?
 - As we end this series on holiness, what has been the biggest change in your perspective on what it means to be “holy”?
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Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Reflect: Am I living as a *living sacrifice*, motivated by grace, mandated to use my gifts, and measured by love?
- Pray: Thank God for His mercy that makes us holy. Ask Him to help us serve joyfully, love genuinely, and honor one another as we live set apart for His glory.

Growth Group Notes: Week # 7

Sermon: *Holiness: Set Apart to Strive*

Text: Hebrews 12:1–14

Icebreaker

- Share about a time you had to push through difficulty to finish something (school, sports, work, family life). What helped you endure?

Discussion & Application Questions

1. Endurance (vv. 1–3, 12–13)

- The text speaks of “drooping hands” and “weak knees.”
 - What might these look like in your spiritual life right now?
- How do sin and distractions drain our endurance in the Christian race?
- What’s one distraction or weight you may need to lay aside in order to follow Christ more faithfully?

2. Pursuit (v. 14)

- Why do you think the author uses the word “*strive*” when speaking about peace and holiness?
- What makes striving for peace with others difficult? How does the gospel help us keep pursuing peace even when it costs us?
- Where is God calling you to strive for holiness more intentionally this week?

3. Passion (v. 14; Matthew 5:8)

- What does it mean to “see the Lord”? Why is this the ultimate prize for the Christian?
- Share a time when walking in obedience helped you experience God more richly.
- What does this teach us about the danger of unrepentant sin in our lives?

4. Success (vv. 15–17)

- What does it mean to “fail to obtain the grace of God”?
- How do bitterness, sexual immorality, or worldliness reveal that someone is drifting away from grace?
- Why is Esau such a sobering warning for us as believers?

Application

- Where do you most need endurance right now in your walk with Christ?
- What can you reorder or remove from your life to minimize sin and maximize holiness?
- What is one practical way you can “fix your eyes on Jesus” this week?
- Are you willing to be someone who joins us in striving for practical holiness as a church body?

Prayer Focus

- Thank God for His holiness and grace in Christ.
- Pray for endurance to run the race faithfully.
- Ask the Spirit to empower you to pursue both peace with others and holiness before God.
- Pray that we would truly “see the Lord” and treasure Him above all else.

Growth Group Leader Summary Week #1

Holiness: God Is Holy

Isaiah 6:1–13

Big Idea

The foundation of holiness is God Himself. To be holy, we must first see Him as He is—majestic in holiness, sovereign on the throne, and utterly set apart. When we see His holiness, we can authentically see our sinfulness, and turn to Jesus to receive His grace through Christ, and then we will respond with a life of joyful service.

Sermon Flow

1. God Is Holy, Holy, Holy (vv. 1–4)

- In a time of chaos and crisis, Isaiah sees the Lord seated on the throne.
- God is sovereign, ruling, alive, and exalted. Earthly kings die, but the King of glory reigns forever.
- Angels cry, “*Holy, holy, holy*” — the only attribute of God repeated three times. His holiness defines all His other attributes.
- *Application:* In the instability of our world, fix your eyes on the unshakable throne of God.

2. Grace Is Needed: (vv. 5–7)

- When Isaiah sees God’s holiness, he also sees his sinfulness: “*Woe is me! I am ruined.*”
- True encounters with God humble us to the dust before they lift us with grace.
- God provides atonement — a burning coal from the altar touches Isaiah’s lips, pointing to Christ’s ultimate sacrifice on the cross.
- *Application:* Do you see your sin clearly? Have you experienced the cleansing of Christ?

3. Service Is the Response: (vv. 8–13)

- Forgiven and cleansed, Isaiah responds: “*Here am I! Send me.*”
 - Holiness always leads to mission. Even when results seem small or fruitless, God calls us to faithfulness.
 - God’s plan is not defeated by human rejection; He promises a holy seed, pointing forward to Christ.
 - *Application:* Are you living sent? Where is God calling you to serve Him today?
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Key Illustrations

- **Uzziah’s death:** Earthly leaders fall, but God is still on the throne.
 - **Job’s encounter with God:** Seeing God’s glory changed his perspective in suffering.
 - **Peter in Luke 5:** His awareness of Jesus’ holiness led him to confess his sin.
 - **Coal from the altar:** A vivid picture of atonement fulfilled in Christ.
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For Growth Group Leaders

Main Takeaway:

Holiness starts with God. When we see Him rightly, we see ourselves rightly, we can by grace through faith, receive His grace, and we respond with lives of service.

Discussion Emphasis:

- What does it mean that God is *holy, holy, holy*?
- How does seeing God's holiness expose our own sinfulness?
- How does the gospel meet our desperate need for cleansing?
- What does it look like to respond to grace with joyful service?

Application Focus:

- **See God:** Commit to beholding His majesty in Scripture.
- **Confess sin:** Respond like Isaiah — “Woe is me” — and run to Christ.
- **Receive grace:** Rest in the finished work of Jesus for forgiveness.
- **Serve joyfully:** Say with Isaiah, “*Here am I, send me.*”

Leader Tips

- **Keep the focus vertical** — begin with God's holiness before moving to human response.
- **Draw out honest reflection** — encourage members to name areas where they've been blind to sin.
- **Center the conversation on Christ** — the coal on Isaiah's lips points to the cross.
- **Highlight service** — holiness isn't just private piety but active mission.
- **Close in worship** — consider reading or singing “*Holy, Holy, Holy*” together.

Key Quotes

- “In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne.”
 - “Woe is me! I am ruined.”
 - “Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”
 - “Here am I. Send me!”
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Growth Group Leader Summary Week #2

Holiness: God Makes Me Holy

Romans 5:1–11

Big Idea

Holiness is not something we achieve by our effort; it is something God declares and provides through Christ. Once enemies of God, we are now justified, reconciled, and made secure in His love. To be holy begins with embracing the reality of who we were, rejoicing in the cross of Christ, and resting in the unshakable security of His grace.

Sermon Flow

1. The Consequences of Sin (vv. 6–10)

- **Our condition apart from Christ is desperate: weak, ungodly, sinners, under wrath, and enemies of God.**
- **Unless we grasp our depravity, we will never grasp the beauty of God’s love.**
- **Holiness begins with humility — admitting who we are without Christ.**
- ***Application:* Acknowledge the depth of your sin. Let it magnify your amazement at His grace.**

2. The Christ Solution (vv. 6–8)

- **While we were powerless, Christ died for us — His love is unearned and undeserved.**
- **God’s love is most clearly displayed at the cross.**
- **Our holiness is grounded in being justified by His blood.**
- ***Application:* Memorize and meditate on Romans 5:8. Let the cross be the daily anchor for your identity.**

3. Our Constant Security (vv. 9–11)

- **If God saved us when we were His enemies, He will surely keep us now as His children.**
 - **Nothing can separate us from His love; our reconciliation is complete.**
 - **Holiness is living out of this secure identity in Christ.**
 - ***Application:* Preach the gospel to yourself every day. Let God’s love silence your insecurity and fuel joyful obedience.**
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Key Illustrations

- **Black cloth and diamond: Our sin is the dark backdrop that makes God’s love shine more brilliantly.**
 - **Amazing Grace lyric: “Saved a wretch like me” captures the shock of divine love.**
 - **Legalism vs. license: Without the gospel, we drift into either despair or denial — but in Christ, we are secure.**
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For Growth Group Leaders

Main Takeaway:

Holiness begins with God's declaration, not our striving. In Christ, we are justified, reconciled, and secure in His love.

Discussion Emphasis:

- Explore our natural condition apart from God.
- Dwell on the cross as the ultimate display of love.
- Reflect on the security of God's grace and what it means for daily living.
- Contrast worldly insecurity with gospel assurance.

Application Focus:

- **Feel righteous: Rest in God's declaration of justification.**
- **Focus repeatedly: Preach the gospel to yourself daily.**
- **Fellowship richly: Rejoice in reconciliation and live for Christ with joy.**

Leader Tips

- **Keep the gospel central — avoid letting the group slip into “try harder” holiness.**
- **Be honest about sin — our condition apart from Christ should humble and awaken gratitude.**
- **Encourage Scripture memory — Romans 5:8 and Romans 8:1 are anchors for gospel assurance.**
- **Share personal testimony — how have you experienced God's love in seasons of weakness?**
- **End with celebration — holiness is a gift to receive before it is a calling to pursue.**

Key Quotes

- **“You cannot sin your way out of God's love because His love is not based on your holiness.”**
- **“The wrath of God is the black cloth upon which the diamond of His love shines.”**
- **“Holiness begins not with what you do, but with what God has done for you in Christ.”**

Growth Group Leader Summary Week #3

Holiness: Set Apart to Praise

Ephesians 1:3–10

Big Idea

Holiness is not only separation from sin but consecration to praise. Believers who grasp God's provision in Christ, their position as His children, and their purpose in His plan will overflow with thanksgiving in every circumstance. Gratitude is not surface-level optimism, but a Spirit-empowered response to the riches of His grace in Jesus.

Sermon Flow

1. Realize His Provision (vv. 7–8)

- In Christ, we are redeemed and forgiven — bought out of slavery to sin by the precious blood of Jesus.
- True thanksgiving is rooted in the gospel; redemption is the foundation of lasting praise.
- Forgiveness is complete, undeserved, and eternal.
- *Application:* Slow down to reflect on the cross. When you see the depth of your sin and the greatness of Christ's sacrifice, thanksgiving becomes unstoppable.

2. Realize Our Position (vv. 3–5)

- We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- God chose us in love, adopted us as His children, and secured us in His family.
- Our blessings are eternal and unshakeable, already secured in heaven.
- *Application:* Rehearse your identity as God's beloved child. Let your position in Christ anchor you in gratitude even when circumstances are hard.

3. Realize Our Purpose (vv. 6, 11–12)

- God's purpose in salvation is "to the praise of His glorious grace."
 - We exist to display His grace and glorify His name now and forever.
 - Thanksgiving flows from knowing our lives, sufferings, and service are woven into God's eternal plan.
 - *Application:* See every moment as an opportunity to glorify God. Whether in joy or trial, adopt the posture: "My life exists for the praise of His grace."
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Key Illustrations

- **Redemption:** Like slaves set free at great cost, we live with joy because Christ bought us with His blood.
 - **Adoption:** Unlike earthly parents, God chose us deliberately and eternally as His children.
 - **Thanksgiving as sacrifice:** Psalm 50:23 reminds us that giving thanks glorifies God — gratitude itself is worship.
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For Growth Group Leaders

Main Takeaway:

Holiness means being set apart to live a life of praise — rooted in redemption, secured by adoption, and directed toward God’s glory.

Discussion Emphasis:

- **Why is thanksgiving so central to holiness?**
- **How does remembering our redemption fuel daily gratitude?**
- **What difference does our secure position as God’s children make in times of trial?**
- **How can our group live more intentionally “to the praise of His glorious grace”?**

Application Focus:

- **Meditate daily on the gospel to stir thanksgiving.**
- **Anchor gratitude in identity (child of God), not circumstances.**
- **Choose to see life’s challenges as part of God’s eternal purpose.**
- **Offer thanksgiving as worship, even when it costs you.**

Leader Tips

- **Keep it Christ-centered: Remind the group that true gratitude flows from the cross, not comfort.**
- **Model authenticity: Share personal examples of when giving thanks was hard, but how God deepened your praise.**
- **Encourage testimony: Invite group members to share how God’s provision or position has stirred their thanksgiving.**
- **Guard against clichés: Move beyond “I’m thankful for food/family” — press into the riches of salvation.**
- **End with worship: Conclude your group time by praying prayers of thanksgiving together.**

Key Quotes

- **“If we are a gospel-oriented people, we will be a thankful people.”**
- **“Thanksgiving cannot be stolen when it is rooted in redemption.”**
- **“The theme of Ephesians 1 is clear: our lives exist for the praise of His glorious grace.”**

Growth Group Leader Summary Week #4

Holiness: Mandated to Pursue

1 Peter 1:13–25

Big Idea

Because God is holy, His people are called to pursue holiness with passion. This is not optional—it is the joyful response of those set apart by grace. True holiness means thinking biblically, living radically in obedience, and making a real impact for the gospel.

Sermon Flow

1. Right Thinking: Word-Saturated Minds (vv. 13, 23–25)

- Holiness begins with preparing our minds for action.
- We must not conform to worldly thinking but be transformed by God’s Word.
- Scripture saturates our minds so that our convictions, loves, and choices align with Christ.
- *Application:* Evaluate your daily intake. Are you more shaped by the Word or the world? Commit to intentional Bible study and memorization.

2. Radical Living: Obedient Children (vv. 14–17)

- Holiness means rejecting sinful desires and choosing obedience to God.
- We are to live in holy reverence before our Father, letting His ways define every area of life.
- True holiness involves joyful submission, not coasting or compromise.
- *Application:* Identify areas where obedience is costly (sexual purity, money, pride). Ask: “Am I living like I belong fully to God?”

3. Real Impact: Holy Love (vv. 14, 22)

- Holiness is never just private—it bears witness to the world.
 - Pure, sincere love for others flows out of hearts transformed by the gospel.
 - A holy church is a powerful instrument for God’s mission.
 - *Application:* Live in such a way that others see hope in you. Let your holiness make the gospel attractive.
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Key Illustrations

- **Girding up the loins of the mind:** Like tucking in your robe to run or work, holiness requires preparation and focus.
 - **Sister Act / culture collision:** The world tries to reshape how we think, but holiness demands biblical convictions.
 - **Kill sin or it will kill you (John Owen):** The pursuit of holiness is a daily battle.
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For Growth Group Leaders

Main Takeaway:

Holiness is a mandate for every Christian. Because we belong to God, we must continually grow in our ability to: think biblically, live obediently, and love sincerely.

Discussion Emphasis:

- **Why is holiness often forgotten in today's church, and how can we recover it?**
- **Where are you most tempted to conform to the world's thinking?**
- **How can holiness in our group's life and love become a witness to the world?**

Application Focus:

- **Saturate your mind with Scripture daily.**
- **Choose radical obedience in specific areas of life.**
- **Love sincerely and let your holiness shine as a gospel witness.**

Leader Tips

- **Keep the gospel central: Positional holiness in Christ fuels the pursuit of practical holiness.**
- **Draw out honesty: Encourage members to share where holiness feels hardest.**
- **Model humility: Share your own battles with sin and how God is helping you pursue holiness.**
- **Encourage progress: Celebrate small, faithful steps toward purity and obedience.**
- **Pray for revival: Holiness in the church is the pathway to missional impact.**

Key Quotes

- **"We are set apart by God and for God."**
- **"Kill sin, or it will be killing you."**
- **"Holiness is not coasting—it is choosing daily obedience in the Spirit."**

Growth Group Leader Summary Week #5

Holiness: Set Apart for Mission

1 Peter 2:9–12

Big Idea

God has set us apart by His grace—not only to belong to Him, but to live on mission for His glory. Holiness is not simply avoiding sin but being distinct in the world as His people, declaring His praises, and demonstrating His character so that others may glorify Him.

Sermon Flow

1. The Declaration: Belong (vv. 9–10)

- We are God’s chosen people, His treasured possession, His holy nation.
- Holiness means we are completely His—defined and owned by Him.
- Identity precedes activity: before we serve, we must know we belong.
- *Application:* Daily rehearse your gospel identity. Remember, you are chosen, redeemed, and called to belong to God.

2. The Demonstration: Build (vv. 11–12)

- Holiness shows itself in conduct—abstaining from sinful desires and living differently.
- As “living stones,” we build up the body of Christ together.
- Holiness strengthens our witness; obedience makes the gospel visible.
- *Application:* Evaluate your lifestyle. Where does compromise weaken your witness? Commit to living distinctively for Christ.

3. The Desire: Beacon (vv. 12)

- The ultimate purpose of holiness is the glory of God.
 - Holy living causes unbelievers to see Christ and glorify Him.
 - Our mission is not just proclamation but demonstration. Holiness is the beacon of the gospel.
 - *Application:* Ask God to use your life as a light in your neighborhood, workplace, and family.
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Key Illustrations

- In the world but not of the world: Like a boat in water—it’s safe when water stays out, but disaster comes when the water gets in.
- Living stones: Every believer is essential in building up the church.

- **Beacon light: Holiness shines, guiding people toward the glory of Christ.**
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For Growth Group Leaders

Main Takeaway:

Holiness is more than separation from sin; it is being set apart for God’s mission—belonging to Him, building His church, and being a beacon for His glory.

Discussion Emphasis:

- **How does knowing we are God’s possession change how we live?**
- **Why is holiness central to the mission of the church?**
- **What does it look like for our group to be “in the world but not of it”?**

Application Focus:

- **Rehearse your gospel identity daily: you belong to God.**
 - **Commit to build up the church with your gifts and service.**
 - **Live distinctly so that others see the reality of Christ in you.**
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Leader Tips

- **Identity first: Anchor discussions in who we are in Christ before moving to what we do.**
 - **Encourage mission: Challenge members to think about their witness at work, school, and home.**
 - **Model transparency: Share areas where you struggle with compromise and how God is helping you.**
 - **Celebrate obedience: Highlight examples of members living distinctly for Christ.**
 - **Pray for impact: End by praying that God would use your group as a gospel beacon.**
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Key Quotes

- **“Holiness is not only separation from sin but consecration to God.”**
- **“We are set apart to belong, to build, and to be a beacon.”**
- **“When the church lives differently, the world sees the reality of Christ.”**

Growth Group Leader Summary Week #6

Holiness: Set Apart to Serve

Romans 12:1–10

Big Idea

Holiness is not only about being set apart from sin but also about being set apart *for service*. In view of God’s mercy, believers are called to offer themselves as living sacrifices, use their gifts for the good of the body, and love one another with genuine devotion. Holiness is lived out through joyful, Spirit-empowered service.

Sermon Flow

1. Grace Motivated: Living Sacrifices (vv. 1–2)

- Our service begins “in view of God’s mercy.” Grace motivates everything.
- Service is not a way to earn God’s favor but a response to mercy already given.
- Transformation comes as we renew our minds in the gospel, not conforming to the world.
- *Application:* Keep the cross in view. Daily remind yourself of God’s mercy so that your service flows from joy, not duty.

2. Grace Mandated: Gifts in the Body (vv. 3–8)

- Every believer has received grace-gifts for the building up of the church.
- There are no spectators in the body of Christ — holiness means being set apart to play your part.
- Gifts differ, but all are essential. Using them is part of worship.
- *Application:* Identify and use your spiritual gifts. Step into service, trusting God to work through you.

3. Grace Measured: Genuine Love (vv. 9–10)

- True holiness is not cold religiosity but warm, genuine love.
 - “Hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good” — holiness is both moral purity and active love.
 - “Outdo one another in showing honor” — the measure of holiness is humble service in love.
 - *Application:* Serve with sincerity. Seek to honor others above yourself. Adopt the mindset: “Wow, I get to serve you!”
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Key Illustrations

- *Living sacrifice:* Unlike a dead sacrifice, this is daily and ongoing — service is a lifestyle, not a one-time act.

- *Body analogy*: Just as each part of the body has a role, so each believer is needed in the church.
 - *Outdo in honor*: A playful picture of competition — but competing to show honour, not to win recognition.
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For Growth Group Leaders

Main Takeaway:

Holiness is expressed not only in separation from sin but in joyful service motivated by God's mercy, mandated by His gifts, and measured by genuine love.

Discussion Emphasis:

- Keep God's mercy/grace in view as the fuel for service.
- Help your group identify their gifts and opportunities to serve.
- Explore what genuine, Christlike love looks like in your group and church.
- Challenge members to adopt a posture of joyful, sacrificial service.

Application Focus:

- Rehearse the gospel daily to motivate service.
 - Step into active service — don't remain a spectator.
 - Love genuinely and honor others above yourself.
 - See holiness not just as purity, but as active devotion to God and His people.
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Leader Tips

- **Keep it gospel-centered**: Remind the group that service flows from grace, not guilt.
 - **Draw out participation**: Encourage quieter members to share how they might serve.
 - **Model vulnerability**: Share where you've struggled to serve joyfully and how God has helped you.
 - **Celebrate small steps**: Even simple acts of service are significant in God's eyes.
 - **End with hope**: God equips His people. Holiness is hard, but the Spirit empowers, and Christ is honored when we serve in love.
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Key Quotes

- *"Unless we see the holiness of God, we will never experience the wealth of grace."*
 - *"Holiness means you are set apart to play a larger part."*
 - *"Wow... I get to serve you?" — that's the mindset holiness produces."*
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Growth Group Leader Summary Week #7

Holiness: Set Apart to Strive

Hebrews 12:1–17

Big Idea

Holiness is not optional for the Christian—it is essential. Like oxygen to a climber on Mount Everest, holiness sustains our faith and keeps us spiritually alive. Hebrews 12 calls us to endure, to strive for holiness and peace, to long to see God, and to rely on His grace.

Sermon Flow

1. The Christian Posture: Endurance (vv. 1–3, 12–13)

- Running the Christian race is a marathon, not a sprint. We need endurance.
- “Drooping hands” and “weak knees” (v. 12) picture spiritual weariness, the temptation to give up.
- Sin and distractions are like clutter on the racecourse. They steal our spiritual oxygen.
- We endure by keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus (vv. 1–2), who ran before us and secured our victory.
- Application: Repent of sin. Remove distractions. Make “straight paths for your feet” by arranging your life to minimize opportunities for sin and maximize pursuit of holiness.

2. The Christian Pursuit: Holiness & Peace (v. 14)

- The call is to *strive*—to actively and urgently pursue peace with others and holiness before God.
- Peace: Unity matters deeply. The enemy delights when God’s people fight one another. In the gospel, we are given grace to forgive, reconcile, and love like Christ (Romans 5:8).
- Holiness: This is not optional. It is the daily, practical outworking of being set apart for God. Obedience shows our love for Him (John 14:15).
- Application: Be intentional. Pursue holiness in every area of life. Pursue peace in relationships, even when it costs you.

3. The Christian Passion: Seeing God (v. 14; Matthew 5:8)

- Without holiness, no one will see the Lord.
- To “see God” means both intimacy with Him now and the eternal joy of His presence in glory.
- Holiness clears our vision—obedience opens our eyes to God’s beauty and makes His presence more real.
- Application: Pursue purity of heart so you may see and savor God more fully in this life and in eternity.

4. The Christian Success: Grace (vv. 15–17)

- Warning: Don't "fail to obtain the grace of God." To drift from grace leads to bitterness, immorality, and worldliness.
 - Esau is a sobering example—he traded eternal blessing for temporary pleasure, and repentance was too late.
 - Grace is God's provision to endure and strive. Without His grace, we cannot make it.
 - Application: Keep short accounts with God. Live in repentance. Rely fully on His grace daily.
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Key Illustrations

- **Mount Everest climbers** need oxygen to survive; holiness is the Christian's oxygen. Without it, we spiritually collapse.
 - **Race imagery** reminds us: the Christian life is not easy, but endurance with eyes on Jesus leads to the finish line.
 - **Esau's story** warns us not to settle for temporary pleasures but to treasure eternal rewards.
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For Growth Group Leaders

Main Takeaway:

Holiness is essential for seeing God. We must endure, strive for holiness and peace, long for God's presence, and cling to grace.

Discussion Emphasis:

- Help your group identify sins or distractions that drain their endurance.
- Encourage practical steps to pursue peace and holiness this week.
- Reflect on what it means to "see God" and why holiness is central to this.
- Warn against drifting like Esau and point everyone back to God's grace in Christ.

Application Focus:

- Endure by fixing your eyes on Jesus.
 - Strive for peace with others and practical holiness before God.
 - Passionately pursue seeing and knowing God more deeply.
 - Live fully in the grace of God through repentance and faith.
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Leader Tips

- Keep pointing back to the **gospel**: holiness is not about earning salvation, but living out what Christ has already secured for us.
- Be sensitive: discussions about sin and bitterness can surface deep wounds. Model grace and remind members of God's mercy.

Cloverdale Baptist Church Growth Group Notes: Kick Off 2025

- Encourage testimonies: how have people experienced seeing God more clearly through obedience?
- End with hope: holiness is hard, but the Spirit empowers us, and the prize—seeing God—is worth it all.