

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

Lesson 7 – Holy, Holy, Holy (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening questions and emphasize that if we imitate anyone, it is generally because we admire and respect them. Something in us makes us want to be like that person.

Leviticus 11:44-45

Just about the entire book of Leviticus is a code of rules and commands for a "pure life." Here God, as the author of this code, established the reason why we should keep these rules. God created man in His image (Genesis 1:27), and we must strive to be like Him. The standard is God Himself – and that is perfection. We should be imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1).

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

This passage is the song of Moses that he gave the people of Israel before his death to remind them of the character of God that they should follow. Even though the word "holy" is not in this passage, the character of holiness is well described. These are some of the words and phrases that describe God: perfect, just, faithful, upright, without evil.

1 John 1:5

John sometimes uses the metaphor of "light" and "dark" to illustrate the difference between the sinful and the life without sin (see John 1:4-5, 7-9, for example). Here John is saying God is without sin. In fact, He is righteousness. He defines goodness by who He is.

Isaiah 55:8-9

God says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." In context, God speaks of His willingness to forgive anyone who turns to Him. What this says about God is that He is completely different from us, but He exemplifies perfect love in His perfect holiness.

Summary: God is perfect and just. He is also the standard for human behavior. Although He is aware that we lack perfection, His expectation is that we strive to be like Him.

Job 4:17-19

Corresponds with C

In this passage, Eliphaz (Job's friend) tries to explain to Job how just God is. No one can be pure before Him, because He is perfect. Although Job was innocent before God, he was not perfect. Job himself admits that he is a sinner (Job 13:23-26), he just wants God to show him what he has done to be in such circumstances.

Psalm 33:4-5

Corresponds with A

Here again, God's justice and righteousness are linked with His perfect love. He loves righteousness and justice. Everything He does is correct.

Isaiah 28:17

Corresponds with D

Many times, we create a string of lies, sometimes to protect ourselves, or for others to think better of us. God has a measuring line – the truth. Our lies will be eradicated from His presence.

Jeremiah 12:1-2

Corresponds with B

Sometimes we, like Jeremiah, doubt God's justice. There are times when it appears that He doesn't judge fairly. In Jeremiah's time, it appeared to him that there were people who lived sinful lives and were successful. They lied, cheated, and stole and they prospered, at least in the material sense. God's answer is that He will ultimately bring justice, but He will bring injustice to justice – and that means our injustice, too.

Application:

Help students to observe areas of spiritual growth in their lives. You might review various past lessons and see if some areas of previously mentioned weakness have begun to improve.

*** Special – Why do good things happen to good people and vice versa? ***

This lesson is shorter and two of the verses in the examples above speak of this problem of wickedness. Many people ask the same question, "If God is a God of justice, why does it look like evil triumphs?" There is not an easy answer to this question, but a Scripture that can help us is Psalm 73. It speaks of the prosperity of the wicked and how this worries the writer...until he comprehends their final destiny. It also shows how God is with us, even in difficult times and personal struggles.

Lesson 7 – Holy, Holy, Holy

The Most Sincere Flattery

Name a person in your life that you imitate the most. What is it that you imitate about them?

In the previous lesson, we spoke about the work of God as judge. In this lesson, we will talk about a related attribute – His holiness. Read the Scriptures below and answer the questions.

Leviticus 11:44-45 – Why does God say we should be holy?

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 – What are some words and phrases used in this passage to describe the character of God?

1 John 1:5 – What is John trying to say when he uses the words “light” and “dark”? What is he saying about God?

Isaiah 55:8-9 – God says, «My _____ are not _____ thoughts,
neither are your _____ my _____.

How are they different? What does this say about God?

To God, being holy means being perfect and just. Read the following verses about the justice of God. Compare each verse with the declaration that describes God’s justice.

___ *Job 4:17-19*

A. The Lord is faithful and true.

___ *Psalms 33:4-5*

B. The Lord is always just.

___ *Isaiah 28:17*

C. A man cannot be more pure than his Creator.

___ *Jeremiah 12:1-2*

D. God will eradicate all our lies.

These are only some of the verses in the Bible that speak about the holiness of God. There are many more we can read, but we will only read two more.

“Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy.”
Leviticus 20:8

“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”
Hebrews 2:11

God is the One who sanctifies you. He will make you in His image – in fact, He is already in the process of doing exactly that. In what areas of your life have you seen improvement in the last six months? Review some of the previous lessons and see if some of those areas you said needed help have improved. Write them in the spaces below. Pray and thank God for the sanctification of your life.

Scripture to Memorize:

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.
1 Thessalonians 4:7