

Be Holy

1 Peter 1:13-2:12

MEMORY VERSE

1 PETER 1:15

But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A dry erase/chalk board with markers or chalk, small prizes (optional).

A drinking glass (must be glass to see through), vegetable oil, water and food coloring.

Paper cups for each child, water, markers, glue and items to decorate their cup with.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Brain Teaser

In our lesson today we are going to learn that we need to “gird up the loins of our minds” in order to live a holy life. This activity will get our brain cells active for our lesson today. Before class you will need to choose five words from our scripture reading. For the older classes you will want to use larger words and for the younger classes you will want to use smaller words. Divide the children into four equal groups (2 groups are fine if you have a smaller class). Write the word on the dry erase/chalk board.

Explain to the children that they will work in teams and try to find as many words as they can from the letters in the word that you give them. In other words, if your word is “grace,” then the children could use “race,” “ace,” “car,” etc. The words have to be real words. The group who can come up with the most words wins; you may wish to give out a small prize to the winning group. Give them all five words and see who are the winners. Explain that in order to be holy we need to keep our minds free from distractions. We have to be sharp and sober. We will learn more about that in our lesson today how that the Lord wants us to live holy lives.

LESSON TIME!

What does it mean to be “holy”? That word is used a lot to describe the Lord. In the Old Testament God told the Israelites “For I am the Lord God, therefore be holy, for I am holy.” One of the characteristics of God is that He is holy or set apart from this world. And because He is holy He wants each one of us to be like Him. He does not just want the people who lived in Bible times to be holy, but wants each and every one of us who are Christians today to be holy.

This week we are going to be looking at the subject of holiness and how that God want us to be holy, even as He is holy. Should Christians be different from the world? Absolutely! But should we also love people who are in the world and need to hear the gospel? Absolutely! Let’s look at holiness and see what God has to say about you and I being holy. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

1 PETER 1:13

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

During the time that the apostle Peter wrote this epistle, people would have to gather up the long robes they wore in order to do anything energetic. They would wrap up their robes around the loin section of the leg in order to be able to run. When Peter says in verse 13 “therefore gird up the loins of your mind...” in essence he is saying “remove anything that does not help you to serve the Lord with your entire mind.” Peter knew this was a way that the people of his day would understand how important it is to not let things distract us from serving the Lord. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

At the time that Peter wrote his letter, there was a lot of persecution going on towards Christians and he knew that they were suffering great trials in order to follow the Lord. He was reminding them that they needed to keep their eyes focused on the salvation that they received from Jesus Christ. When times in our lives become difficult serving the Lord, and there will be difficult times, we must focus our thoughts “gird up the loins of our minds” and look to Jesus. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

Peter goes on to say in this verse that we are to be sober and rest our hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. God knows how hard it is to follow Him in this world that we live in. This is why He had Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote these words of encouragement to us. When we are sober it means we are self-disciplined, no one has to remind us to do the right things,

like read the Bible, pray to the Lord and other things we know are right to do. We need to ask God to help us to be sober and be able to rest in Him and to remember that we will see Jesus face to face someday when He returns. That is our hope! **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

1 PETER 1:14-16

as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

Can you remember when you learned that you were a sinner and when you asked Jesus into your heart? Well, did you know that before you received Jesus that you were ignorant (did not know any better) to your sinful ways? We are all children in God's eyes and we all were ignorant of our ways until we learned about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. But now that we know Him we are to live a different kind of life. We are to live a life of obedience and holiness. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

Peter encourages his readers (and us) to stop living the way that we used before we came to Jesus. It is so sad to see people who come to Jesus and then continue to live their lives just like they always have. It may be an indication that they really did not receive Jesus because He makes us a brand new creation when we come to Him.

Although we are not perfect or sinless (that happens later in heaven), we should still have a desire to be holy and do what is right. The Holy Spirit lives inside of our hearts when we come to know Jesus. So He is going to change us so that we begin to look more and more like Jesus every day. So what we say and what we do will look like Jesus. That is the best way to describe holiness...it is when our lives look like Jesus' life. We are to be holy, or separate from this world. When people in the world look at our lives they should see something different than their own. We want to do right because God is changing us from the inside out. Let's let Him do that work in us! **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

1 PETER 1:17

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

In this verse we see that if we call on the name of the Lord, and that means to pray to Him in the name of Jesus Christ, then we are to live our lives as Christ lived. We learn how Jesus lived out His life by reading the Bible and asking the Lord to help us to live holy lives. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

When we are serving and following the Lord we begin to fear Him. Not a dreadful type of fear like “if I mess up God is really going to get me for this” but to seek to please Him because we know He is all knowing and all-powerful. When we do sin against God we need to go to Him and ask for forgiveness and repent of that sin (turn away from doing it again) and that shows that we fear Him because of who He is. We will continue to grow in the likeness of Jesus’ holiness as long as we are turning to Him to direct our paths. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

1 PETER 1:18-19

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

We desire to please God and in pleasing God we are becoming holy as He is holy. These verses teach us that since we are now part of God’s kingdom we are to live as such in this lifetime. It is a great reminder that we were purchased with a price and the price that was paid was the precious blood of Jesus. Before Jesus died on the cross people had to sacrifice a perfect lamb to be forgiven of their sins, but when Jesus was crucified for you it was His blood which set us free from our transgressions. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

No amount of silver or gold could save us or make us holy in any way. But Jesus’ blood shed on the cross can save us and change into the image of Jesus. His blood cleanses us and makes us holy. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

Holy Water

Holiness means separation. Use this activity to demonstrate to the children what it means to be separated. You will need a drinking glass (must be glass to see through), vegetable oil, water and food coloring. Take 1/2 cup of vegetable oil and pour into the glass. Next mix 1/2 cup of water with a few drops of food coloring (any color). Keep separated until ready to use.

Explain to the children that the oil in the glass represents the world and the water represents us. Sometimes the world would have us think that we can mix together with it (pour water into oil). They try to convince us to do the things that they do and join in with them (shake or mix together the ingredients). At first it might seem like it works (mixture blended together, let stand). But after a while we realize that we can never mix with the world (the two will separate again). Holiness means to be separate from the things and the attitudes of this world. We cannot be a Christian and mix in with the world. We are different and called to be a separate and holy people. Let's always remember that.

1 PETER 1:20-21

He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Again in these verses we are being encouraged (exhorted) to continue on in our hope because of what the Lord said He would do and has done. God's plan for salvation was before the world was ever formed and He accomplished that plan just like He said He would through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We are to always trust and hope in the Word of God and not the things that may distract us in this world. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

1 PETER 1:22-25

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers and its flower falls away,

but the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Now that we see why we are to be holy, our lives need to show that we are living a holy life. When we are born again, our heart starts to change and we begin to live differently. That is what Peter is saying in this verse; since we are born again you need to live like it. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

But remember we do not always change instantly; it is a growing process in God. Just like you are growing bigger every day and becoming more mature, that is how we are spiritually. A life that is born again will love other Christians (the brethren) and not because we are told to but because we desire to in our heart. When Jesus comes to live in your heart it is He that starts living in you and not your old sinful ways. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

And we are not just told to love the brethren but to love them fervently with a pure heart. Each time we show love to another Christian we actually love Jesus because Jesus lives in their hearts too!

1 PETER 2:1-3

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

But what does it mean that we are to love others fervently with a pure heart? In verse one of chapter two we are told what we are to lay aside. All of these things are exactly the opposite of what love is. The first of these is malice, meaning we do not want the best for others, actually even going as far as causing injury whether it be by our words or actions. The second description is “all deceit”, meaning we live only for ourselves and use trickery to get what we want. The third is hypocrisy, meaning we say we are Christians but we live just like the rest of the world. Fourthly, there is envy, meaning that we want what others have and we hate them for having something we want. Lastly, the verse speaks about evil speaking, like when we gossip about others or say mean and hurtful things to people.

Apart from Christ we are all capable of doing these sinful things but as verse two says we can continue to grow in the Lord and we do that by reading His Word, hearing what His Word says and then going on to do what His Word tells us to do. So instead of doing these sinful things, when we come to Jesus we need to spend time in the Bible

learning about how to live for Jesus and like milk nourishes a little baby, we will also grow in the Lord. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

1 PETER 2:4-8

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,

you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,”

and “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

We become God’s people through faith in Christ Jesus. This is what verse 4 is referring to when it speaks of “coming to Him.” Jesus is also referred to as a living stone because He was once dead but rose from the grave and now gives life to others that believe in Him. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

Some people rejected Jesus when He was crucified and some still refuse Him today, but the truth remains that He is chosen by God to be the Savior of the world and He is precious to God. Because we are now God’s children, born again, we are referred to as living stones (verse 5). Before we were saved we were dead in our sin but now we are alive in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

If we are following Christ, verse 6 tells us that Jesus will be our help and that we will never regret trusting in Him in this life or in eternity. Those who reject Jesus as the one and only true way to God, see Jesus as a stumbling block. They will end up facing judgment and spending eternity separated from God in hell because they refused to accept God’s salvation. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

1 PETER 2:9-10

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

We were dying in our sins before we asked Jesus into our hearts and we were separated from God. In the Old Testament, we learn that God chose the nation of Israel as His chosen people. Israel was not a mighty nation in size or in any other way, except that the Lord had chosen to use Israel as an example of His grace and mercy towards a common people. Because God had told Israel that they were His chosen people, they believed that they, the Jews, were the only ones that would be going to heaven. God had a plan for salvation for the whole world before He had ever created it! Many of the Jews did not accept the idea of God bringing salvation to the Gentiles.

And not only did the Jews not believe that salvation was for everyone, they especially did not believe that Jesus was the One who was to be their future King and Savior. The Bible teaches us that we who believe in Jesus, whether Jew or Gentile, and are His chosen people. And we are here to proclaim to the entire world that it is Jesus alone who can save every person from eternal separation from God and a life of darkness. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

We are to be eternally grateful to God for making us a part of His heavenly kingdom. He could have made the Jews the only people who would be called to go to heaven, but He made it possible for us all to be saved from our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 2:11-12

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

In these last two verses, Peter is again urging and encouraging us to live holy lives. When we live like God wants us to, those that are living in disobedience will often speak evil against us. Our holy lives shine the light of Christ on their sin and convicts them. The Lord uses our lives to draw others to Him so they may be saved not so they can remain guilty. **Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**

What's Your Cup Filled With?

For this craft you will need paper cups for each child, water, markers, glue and items to decorate their cup with. Pass out a cup to each child and pour some water in each cup. Ask the children if they would drink out of the cup if there were bugs in the cup? Would they drink out of the cup if there was mud in the cup? In the same way, we need to have clean lives in order to please the Lord.

What makes our cup (or our lives) dirty is what comes out of our hearts. Jesus talked about the things in our heart that come out of our lives are the things that defile us (or make us dirty). We need to guard our hearts and ask God every day to help us to have clean hearts and to live a holy life. When we do then God's living water can flow out of our lives (like the water in the cup).

Have the children write their names on their cup and if you like, the memory verse as well. Next, allow the children to color and/or decorate their cups and take home.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to live a holy life. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.