



BIG IDEA

God is Holy, which means He is set apart, and He has called us to be set apart too.

BIBLE

Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Peter 1:15-16

ABOUT THIS WEEK

God is unlike anyone or anything else. He's perfect, pure, and powerful. When Isaiah saw God's holiness, it made him realize his need for forgiveness—and God gave it! God calls us to live differently because He is different.

SERIES INTRODUCTION

- Hey everyone! This week we are starting a series called "God is _____."
 - And that blank is doing A LOT of work here, because if we were to ask everyone in the room how they would fill in that blank, I'm sure we'd get almost 100 different answers.
 - As a matter of fact, turn to someone sitting next to you and tell them how you would fill in that blank.
 - There are some people with good, true words to put there. But I also realize that some of us may have wrong words that we would put there.
 - But the beauty of God and His Word is that He loves you so much that He wants to reveal who He is directly to you through His Word.
- For the next 4 weeks, we're going to let God speak for Himself. We're going to look through the pages of Scripture to see how the Word of God describes the Heart of God, because **SLIDE – GOD WANTS TO BE KNOWN.**
- So let's get started! But first I want to ask you a question...

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

HOOK – Awe-Inspiring

- Let me ask you something:
 - Have you ever seen something so amazing that you couldn't even describe it?
 - Maybe a view from a mountain, a perfect sunset, or a crazy light show at a concert. You try to explain it to someone later, and you're like, "You just had to be there."
 - ***SPEAKER NOTE: If you have any experiences like this, feel free to share the story. Bonus points if you have pictures!***
- The Bible has multiple instances of people having encounters with God and all of them include a moment where they are completely overwhelmed by the presence of God.
- He's so powerful, perfect, and different from anything or anyone else that people can barely find the words.
- The word they use to describe Him is holy. **[SLIDE: GOD IS HOLY]**

What is "Holy"?

- When we say God is holy, it means that He is set apart. **[SLIDE: HOLY = SET APART]**
 - Simply put, it means there is no one or no thing that is like Him.
- He's completely good, completely pure, and completely perfect.
 - Even in His emotions, God is all of these things.
 - For example, there are times in Scripture where we read about God being angry, or jealous, or sad. But none of those feelings are in the same way we feel them.
 - When we're angry, or jealous, or sad, there's usually some selfishness or greed mixed in there. But not God. Even His feelings are pure and altogether perfect. Everything about Him is set apart.
- That's what holiness means. God isn't just a little better than us—He's completely different. He's the Creator; we're the creation.
- The Bible talks about this in Isaiah 6, when the prophet Isaiah sees a vision of God sitting on His throne surrounded by angels.
 - In fact, let's read it together: **[SLIDE] ISAIAH 6:1-8 NIV**
 - **What an amazing scene!?**
 - The angels are shouting, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty!"
 - Isaiah realizes how perfect God is—and how much Isaiah isn't

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

- Now, here's why that matters for us.
 - If God is holy—completely good and perfect—it means that sin can't exist in His presence.
 - And that's a problem, because we all sin.
 - Every one of us has done wrong, said hurtful things, or ignored God. The Bible says in Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
 - Sin separates us from God. It's like a giant wall between us and the One who created us to be close to Him.
 - And because God is just and perfect, He can't just ignore sin.
 - But here's the incredible news: The same way that God cleansed Isaiah so that He could be in God's presence, He did the same for us through Jesus.
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- God didn't leave us stuck in our sin. He made a way for us to be forgiven and made right with Him.
- God sent His Son, Jesus, who lived a perfect and holy life—the life we couldn't live—and then died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin.
 - At the cross, Jesus took our place. He took our guilt so we could be made clean.
 - And when we believe in Him, God no longer sees our sin—He sees Jesus' perfection instead.
- That's what grace is all about.
 - [SLIDE] – 1 Peter 1:15-16 NIV says that we are to be Holy as God is Holy, but that was impossible without Jesus.
 - [slide] A holy God made a way for unholy people to be made new.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

So how do we respond to a holy God who's shown us that kind of love?

1. SLIDE – WORSHIP HIM

- This is what happened to Isaiah.
- When we realize how holy and gracious God is, it should make us want to worship—not just through singing, but by how we live.

2. SLIDE – TRUST HIM

- If God is perfect and never changes, we can rely on Him no matter what's happening.

3. SLIDE – LIVE SET APART

- "Holy" doesn't mean "perfect"—it means different. It means living in a way that reflects who God is.

You don't have to be perfect to be holy—you just have to be willing to follow the One who is.

Closing

- Here's your challenge this week:
 - Each morning, before you grab your phone or get ready for school, take five seconds to pray this simple prayer: "God, You're holy—and I want to live like You today."
- When you do that, you're reminding yourself of who God is and who He's called you to be.
- Remember—God's holiness doesn't push us away; it pulls us closer.
- Because the same God who is perfect in power is also full of mercy and love for you.