

Sunday School Lesson: God Is Holy  
Basic Theology Series — Attributes of God

**Main Idea:** God is holy, which means He is completely set apart, perfectly pure, and unlike anyone or anything in creation. Because God is holy, He sets apart His people to live holy lives.

### 1. “What Does It Mean to Be Set Apart?”

Whole Group Question:

What does it mean for something to be “set apart”?

“That idea helps us begin to understand the word holy. Holy means set apart. But when we talk about God’s holiness, we mean much more than God is just special. God is completely separate, completely pure, and completely unique. There is no one like Him.”

Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 10:10: *“And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

Exodus 15:11: *“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”*

1 Peter 1:15–16: *“But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”*

Hebrews 10:10: *“And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

### 2. Bible Truth: God Is Holy

Key Scripture: Isaiah 6:1–5

In Isaiah 6, Isaiah sees a vision of God seated on His throne. The angels are not crying out, “Loving, loving, loving,” even though God is loving. They are not crying out, “Powerful, powerful, powerful,” even though God is powerful. They cry out: “Holy, holy, holy.”

In Hebrew thought, repeating something adds emphasis. Saying “holy” three times shows the greatness and fullness of God’s holiness.

God is not like us, only bigger.

God is not like creation, only stronger.

God is in a category all by Himself.

God is completely set apart from everything He has made. God’s holiness means He is separate from creation, perfect in purity, and completely unique.

God is set apart from creation.

He made all things, but He is not part of creation.

There is no evil, darkness, or impurity in Him.  
God is set apart in glory.  
There is no one like Him.

Supporting Scripture: Exodus 15:11

“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?”

What is the answer to the question, “Who is like God?”

The question in scripture is actually rhetorical but the answer is of course, “No one”

### **3. Holy Objects: Things Set Apart for God**

In the Bible, certain objects, places, days, and people were called holy because they were set apart for God’s special use. They were not holy in the same way God is holy. They did not become divine. They were holy because they belonged to God and were used for His purposes.

**Family Discussion:** What are some things in the Bible other than God that are called Holy and why do you think they were considered Holy?

The Sabbath Day

*“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”*

— Exodus 20:8

The Sabbath was set apart from the other days as a day of rest and worship.

The Tabernacle and Temple Items

In the Old Testament, items used in worship were set apart for service to God. They were not to be treated as common objects.

The Priests

The priests were set apart to serve before the Lord.

The Nation of Israel

“You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.”

— Leviticus 20:26

*God separated Israel from the nations to belong to Him and represent Him.*

Holy Ground

There were times that God would use a location to fulfill a purpose, such as sending a message. These grounds were Holy and the human was often told to remove their shoes.

Things were called holy when they were set apart for God. But God is holy in Himself.

This is important.

A cup in the temple could be holy because it was set apart for God’s use.

A priest could be holy because he was set apart to serve God.  
Israel could be holy because God separated them from the nations.

But God is not holy because someone set Him apart.  
God is holy because that is who He is.

He is the ultimate example of holiness.

#### **4. Whole Group Discussion: Common vs. Holy**

Whole Group Question:

Why do you think God wanted certain things in the Old Testament to be set apart as holy?

To teach people that God is special.  
To remind them not to treat God casually.  
To show that worship matters.  
To show that sin separates people from God.  
To help them understand God's purity.

"God used holy objects, holy places, holy days, and holy people to teach His people that He is holy. They were visible reminders that God is not to be treated as common or ordinary."

#### **5. We Are Called to Be Holy**

1 Peter 1:15–16: *"But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"*

Because God is holy, His people are called to be holy.

That does not mean we become equal with God.

That does not mean we become sinless in this life.

It means we are set apart for Him.

A Christian does not belong to the world anymore. A Christian belongs to God. We are set apart from the world. To live a holy life means to live as someone who belongs to God. Holiness is not just avoiding bad things. Holiness is being set apart for the best thing: God Himself.

That means:

We are set apart in what we worship.

We are set apart in how we speak.

We are set apart in how we treat people.

We are set apart in what we love.

We are set apart in what we pursue.

We are set apart from the sinfulness of the world.

#### **6. Family Discussion: What Does Holiness Look Like at Home?**

Family Question:

What is a specific way that we live set apart for God?

Parents, are there ways that your family needs to be more set apart?

For younger children, parents can ask:

What is one thing you should stop doing because you belong to God?

What is one thing you can do to show love to God?

### **7. Gospel Connection: We Need Christ to Make Us Holy**

This is important. Do not let the lesson become mere moralism. “When we talk about holiness, we quickly realize something: God is holy, but we are sinners.”

Isaiah saw God’s holiness and immediately said:

*“Woe is me! For I am lost.”*

— Isaiah 6:5

God’s holiness exposes our sin. But the good news of the gospel is that Jesus came to save sinners and make us holy.

Hebrews 10:10: *“And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

We do not make ourselves holy so God will accept us. God accepts us through Christ, and then He begins making us holy. Jesus saves us from sin and sets us apart for God.

Is Holiness Communicable or Non-Communicable?

### **8. Closing Application**

“God is holy. He is completely set apart, perfectly pure, and unlike anyone else. In the Bible, God set apart objects, days, places, and people to remind His people of His holiness. Now, through Jesus, God sets apart His people to live holy lives. We are called to be different from the sinfulness of the world because we belong to Him.”

What is one way your life should look different because you belong to a holy God?

#### **Homework**

choose one area of life to “set apart” for God.

Examples:

Set apart one evening for family Bible reading and prayer.

Set apart your speech by refusing harsh or complaining words for one day.

Set apart entertainment by asking, “Does this help us honor God?”

Set apart mealtime by thanking God and discussing one Bible truth.

Set apart Sunday morning by preparing your hearts for worship before arriving.

Family Discussion During the Week:

Ask around the dinner table:

What does it mean that God is holy?

Why should we not treat God as common or ordinary?

How did Jesus make us holy?

What is one way our family can live set apart this week?