

PrayerFastingand  
ConsecrationWeek

January  
2024

# Set A part

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A Biblical  
View of  
Holiness

Family Devotional



# Set Apart

**A Biblical View  
of Holiness**



**EVERY NATION**  
TAIPEI

Prayer, Fasting, and Consecration Week  
January 2024  
Family Devotional

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**[#ENfast2024](http://everynationtaipei.com/Fasting)**

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This family devotional is designed to be used by parents with children from the ages of two to twelve.



# Fasting 101

## Connect

All of us have needs and wants. Needs are things that we cannot live without. Wants are things we would like to have. What are some of your needs? What are some of your wants? There are many things we need and want. But sometimes, we focus so much on our needs and wants that we put aside our relationship with God. Fasting lets us focus more on God by setting aside our needs and wants.

## What is fasting?

Fasting is stopping an activity (usually eating) for a period of time to know and hear God more. We replace eating or using our gadgets with time with God. This means praying, worshiping, and reading the Bible. These activities strengthen our relationship with God.

When our parents speak to us, we should pay attention and listen to them. Fasting helps us pay attention and listen to God. It helps us put aside distractions. We say to God, “I am going to listen to You because You are my Father. I trust You!”

Jesus gave us an example of fasting in Matthew 4. Jesus knew that He would need strength and power for His ministry. He prepared by fasting for forty days in the desert. During this time, He was tempted by Satan. His response to that temptation is the truth we can hold on to for strength when we fast:

*Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”* **MATTHEW 4:4**

Fasting is usually keeping yourself from eating and drinking as you devote more time to God. But you can also fast from different media (TV, video games) and technology (gadgets, internet) if you cannot fast from food. The important thing is to keep your focus away from the things the world offers to spend more time with God.

## BEFORE FASTING

### 1. Pray

Spend time reading the Bible before the fast. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in your prayers. Write down your specific prayer requests for your family, friends, church, and nation.

### 2. Commit

Pray about the kind of fast that you will do and commit to it ahead of time. Ask God for grace to help you follow through with your decision. Also, ask your parents and maybe even your doctor if you are allowed to do a specific type of food fast.

### 3. Act

If you will be fasting from food, start eating smaller portions a few days before you fast. Avoid sugary and fatty foods. Ask someone to be your prayer partner throughout the fast.

## WHILE FASTING

### 1. Focus

Set aside time to read God's word and pray. This devotional will help you go through your fast. Just be ready to listen to God's voice and do what the Holy Spirit is telling you.



## **2. Pray**

If you can, join at least one prayer meeting in your church. Pray for your family, church, pastors, nation, campuses, and missions throughout the week.

## **3. Fill Up**

During mealtimes, if you're fasting from food, read the Bible and pray instead. Drink plenty of water and rest as much as you can. Keep in mind that you may find yourself becoming physically weak, tired, impatient, or irritated. If you're doing a different type of fast, read the Bible and pray during the time you would normally do what you are fasting from (for example, browsing through social media or playing video games).

# **AFTER FASTING**

## **1. Eat**

If you fasted from food, reintroduce solid food gradually. Your body will need time to adjust to a normal diet. Start with fruits, juices, and salad, then add more vegetables. Eat small portions throughout the day. It may be tempting, but try not to eat junk food and sweets right away. If you've finished a different type of fast, remember what God revealed to you as you spent time with Him. Take what you learned from the fast into your everyday life.

## **2. Pray**

Don't stop praying! Trust that God will keep His promises and knows what He's doing. Don't stop believing in and listening to God all year. Be in faith and expect God to answer your prayers!

# Our Plan

## Day 1

### FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

### FAMILY MEMBERS

*Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.*

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## Day 2

### FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

### FAMILY MEMBERS

*Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.*

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## Day 3

### FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

### FAMILY MEMBERS

*Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.*

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## Day 4

### FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

### FAMILY MEMBERS

*Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.*

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## Day 5

### FASTING OPTIONS

Social media fast

Gadget fast

Skip one meal

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Meeting(s) to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

### FAMILY MEMBERS

*Write down the names of the parents and kids who will do this type of fast for today.*

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# WE ARE THANKFUL TO GOD FOR . . .

How did God answer your prayers in 2023?

# FOR 2024, WE WILL SEEK GOD AND TRUST HIM IN THESE AREAS . . .

What are your prayer requests for the year?

**My Family** (e.g., good health for parents and siblings)

**My School** (e.g., good grades)

**My Friends** (e.g., for friends to know Jesus)

**Others** (e.g., for more people to know Christ)

*"Again, here is what I tell you. Suppose two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for. My Father in heaven will do it for you." MATTHEW 18:19*

## Pray in Pairs

Each family member will pray with a relative or friend.

Write down the prayer partner's name after each family member's name.

Family Member	Prayer Partner

# Did you know?

Every Nation is in **82** nations around the world!

Is there a nation that God is leading you to pray for? Ask God how He can use your family to be a blessing to that nation and for the gospel to be preached there.

Continue to pray that God would open doors for more  
Every Nation church plants in the remaining **113** nations.



*"Ask me, and I will give the nations to you. All nations on earth will belong to you." PSALM 2:8*





# Introduction:

# The Call to Holiness

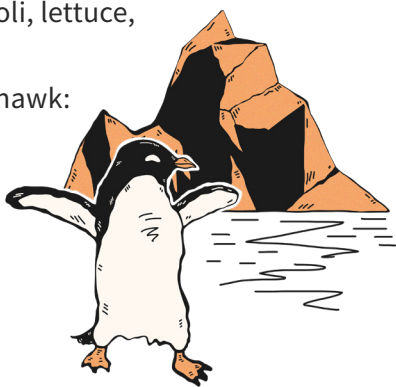
## CONNECT

Players will be given a set of five words and they must determine which one does not belong.

Parents, prepare as many sets of words as you can so more rounds can be played.

Example:

- Cucumber, pineapple, broccoli, lettuce, onion: pineapple is a fruit
- Eagle, owl, penguin, parrot, hawk: penguins don't fly
- Rose, daisy, tulip, water lily, sunflower: a water lily grows in water
- Korea, Philippines, Italy, Thailand, India: Italy is not in Asia



In this game, we determined one object that does not belong to the group. In our lesson today, we will similarly talk about not belonging, but this time, it is about people who are called to live in a different way.

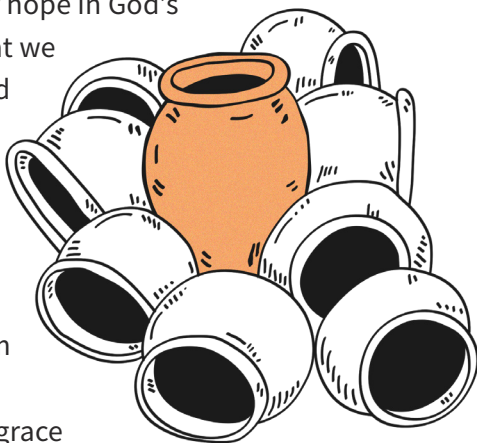
## READ THE WORD

*<sup>13</sup>So be watchful, and control yourselves completely. In this way, put your hope in the grace that lies ahead. This grace will be brought to you when Jesus Christ returns.*

*<sup>14</sup>You should obey your Father. You shouldn't give in to evil desires. They controlled your life when you didn't know any better. <sup>15</sup>The God who chose you is holy. So you should be holy in all that you do. <sup>16</sup>It is written, "Be holy, because I am holy." **1 PETER 1:13-16***

God is holy in every way, which means that He is completely different from everything else. What exactly does it mean to be holy? People today are quick to say that “holy” means doing what God wants us to do. “Holy” originally means set apart, dedicated, set apart from the world, and set apart from the rest of the world.

When God calls us to be holy, it is more than just a goal to reach or a request to change our actions. It is more than just a call to turn away from our sinful desires and live in obedience to the Father. It's a call to put our hope in God's grace through Jesus so that we can be completely changed and live holy lives. This is because living holy is not something we can simply do by our own ability, commitment, and willpower. This comes from knowing Jesus and from trusting and receiving the grace that God has given us through Him.



God's call to holiness is based on the fact that He is holy. As God's children, we are to be like our heavenly Father and reflect Him in everything that we are and in everything that we do.

## HUDDLE

### Parents to Kids

#### 2-6 years old

- Do you trust God's word?

#### 7-12 years old

- What does being "set apart" mean for you?

### Kids to Parents

- Why is holiness important?
- As a family, how can we be set apart?

God desires all of His children to be holy. He calls us to step away from how we used to live, and from how the world calls us to live. As we study this call to holiness this week, may we have a better understanding of this calling that we have from our Father.

## PRAY

Dear God, I pray for Your grace and truth to live a life worthy of Your calling for holiness. Transform me by Your grace and guide me through the Holy Spirit to live a life more pleasing to You, God. I want to live in Your call to holiness, and I pray for Your help to do this. In Jesus' name, amen.

## DISCOVER

Did you know that when God sets you apart for Himself, it means that you are His special treasure?

*You are a holy nation. The LORD your God has set you apart for himself. He has chosen you to be his special treasure. He chose you out of all the nations on the face of the earth. **DEUTERONOMY 14:2***

## NOTES

## Day 1:

# The Community of Holiness

## CONNECT

Prepare digital photos of people in various jobs, such as:

- Police officer
- Firefighter
- Dentist or doctor
- Nurse
- Baker
- Soldier
- Chef
- Pilot



This is a guessing game. Starting with one photo, zoom in to the maximum level you can and ask the kids to guess what the job depicted in the photo is. If they are not able to guess it correctly, you can gradually zoom it out as the kids continue guessing. Once



a child makes the correct guess, zoom out to reveal the entire photo. Ask them why the person's job in the photo is important to the community. Continue until all photos are used up.

These are just some of the different people that make up a community. A community is a group of people who live in the same place or it may be a group of people who have something

in common. We will look at the second kind as we learn more about the community of holiness God has called us to.

## READ THE WORD

1 Peter 2:4–5, 9 says:

*<sup>4</sup>Christ is the living Stone. People did not accept him, but God chose him. God places the highest value on him. <sup>5</sup>You also are like living stones. As you come to Christ, you are being built into a house for worship. There you will be holy priests. You will offer spiritual sacrifices. God will accept them because of what Jesus Christ has done. . . . <sup>9</sup>But God chose you to be his people. You are royal priests. You are a holy nation. You are God's special treasure. You are all these things so that you can give him praise. God brought you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 PETER 2:4–5, 9*

The temple was where God lived in the Old Testament. It was set apart and holy for worshiping God. However, Peter is showing us that in the New Testament, we, the people of God, are now His dwelling place. Together, as a spiritual community, we are being built together as God's home that brings God's presence wherever we go. This community of holiness is made up of God's holy people who are filled with His Spirit.

Since God has set us apart as a community of holiness, He wants us to live in a way that shows others how He has transformed us. As His “spiritual house,” we are supposed to live and act differently so that we can show people how good God is and how He calls them out of darkness. We do this not only through our own lives, but also as a community. This is why it is important to be part of a local church. As a community, we can reflect Christ to the world in the way we treat one another and those who do not yet know the Lord.

# HUDDLE

## Parents to Kids

### 2–6 years old

- What would you like to be when you grow up? How can you help the community that way?

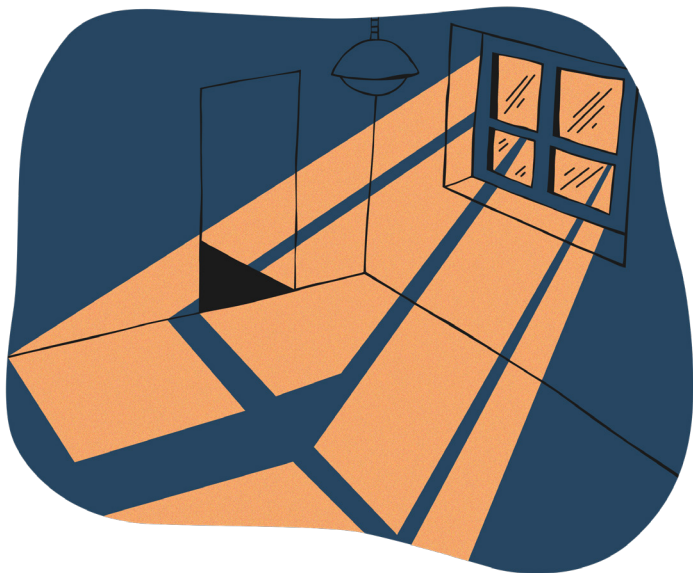
### 7–12 years old

- What does it mean for you to be part of your church community?

## Kids to Parents

- How can we, as a family, help our church and be a light to the community around us?

We are meant to live our lives as part of a bigger community of people who follow Christ. We are not meant to live our lives alone but to join with people who love Jesus. As one Church, we are called to bring light and hope to the people around us. Are you part of a church? Are you serving others through the church?





## PRAY

Dear God, thank You for calling us Your chosen people and giving us the privilege to serve others through the Church. We pray that as we grow and participate in our church community, You will use us to touch people's lives. As You appoint us to be Your priests, may we serve them with the same heart that You have served us. Help us to be a light for the people around us. In Jesus' name, amen.

## DISCOVER

What is a community?

According to the New World Encyclopedia, the word “community” is derived from the Latin word “*communitas*” (meaning the same), which is in turn derived from “*communis*,” which means “common, public, shared by all or many.”<sup>1</sup>

As part of the community of God's people, let us be the light and hope for the world around us and may they see Jesus through us.

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<sup>1</sup> Joy Ditto, “Dissecting the True Meaning of Community,” American Public Power Association, August 19, 2022, <https://www.publicpower.org/periodical/article/dissecting-true-meaning-community#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20New%20World, and%20the%20word%20munis%20>.

## NOTES

## Day 2:

# The Challenge of Holiness

## CONNECT

What does a home look like?

- On a sheet of paper, parents will draw a simple floor plan of their home.
- Have each family member write down in each room the feelings they experience while in that room (joy, peace, happiness, etc.).
- Kids can also draw stuff in each room using pencils or crayons.
- Once done, parents will explain that all the written experiences are what defines their home.

## READ THE WORD

*<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people. But now you are the people of God. Once you had not received mercy. But now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, you are outsiders and those who wander in this world. So I'm asking you not to give in to your sinful desires. They fight against your soul.*

**1 PETER 2:10-11**

We originally belonged to this world, following its ways and giving in to our sinful desires. We were not part of God's people.

However, because of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we have become part of God's people, His very own family. Our home is with God.

As God's people, we are now described as outsiders and wanderers in this world. While we may live on this earth right now, we are just passing through. One day, we will be in our eternal home with God.

Knowing this truth, we should not live as the world does. While we are here on earth with everything in it calling out to us, we are not to give in to the world's ways and follow sinful desires. Until Christ returns, we must live as redeemed and holy people in a fallen world.

## HUDDLE

### Parents to Kids

#### 2–6 years old

- Name some things that last forever. Why do you think so?

#### 7–12 years old

- What area of your life do you struggle to live with holiness? What are some of the things that hinder you from obeying God?

### Kids to Parents

- How can we live according to God's call when there are so many temptations around us?

Living set apart for God while living in this world is not easy. It is a daily battle that each of us face. But God grants us grace and mercy to say no to sin, to reject worldly desires, and to live with holiness as He called us to. He has given us His word to renew our minds and to guide us. He has blessed us with a spiritual

community to help strengthen and encourage us. Most importantly, He has given us the Holy Spirit to be with us always and to empower us to live holy.



## PRAY

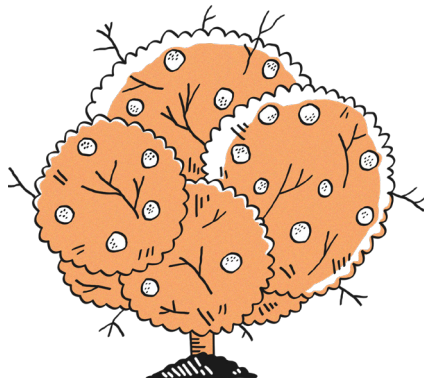
Dear God, thank You for Your holiness and for Your call for us to live holy lives.

By the power of Your Holy Spirit, help us to have the courage to reject our sinful desires and all the temptations that come from this world. Give us wisdom to make the right choices so that we can live in holiness. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

## DISCOVER

Here are some benefits of living a holy life:<sup>2</sup>

1. We become able to live out God's purposes for us. (2 Timothy 2:20–26)
2. When others see the holiness of God in us, it causes them to glorify Him. (1 Peter 2:9–12)
3. We please God and produce fruit. (Ephesians 5:1–17)



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<sup>2</sup> Kathy Howard, "5 Benefits of Living a Holy Life," KathyHoward: Unshakeable Faith for Life, July 19, 2021, <https://www.kathyhoward.org/5-benefits-living-holy-life/>.

## NOTES

## Day 3:

# The Conduct of Holiness

## CONNECT

This activity will require about a week to complete. Think of a regular activity that your child can do but may struggle to do every day. Examples can be reading or doing some exercise. Lay out a plan to help them do it every day, such as read ten minutes (or ten pages) a day. Make sure it is something doable for them. Lastly, make a to-do chart for them, where they can tick off boxes if they have already done it for the day.

Parents can say: “This is a checklist for you to fill out every day. You check the box for the day after you have done the activity. If you have not completed it for the day, just leave the box unchecked. I will not be checking to see if you did them every day but will trust that you will fill it out honestly.” (You may optionally say this: “There may or may not be a prize at the end, depending on how well you have done.”)



At the end of the prescribed time, check to see how they have done. Encourage them for how they did.

Parents can say: “Was it easy to make yourself do the activities? Did you have to force yourself to do them or were they easy for you to do? Did you at any time think about checking the boxes even if you were not able to do it?”

One of the things about living holy is to do everything without any hint of wrongdoing.

## READ THE WORD

*<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people. But now you are the people of God. Once you had not received mercy. But now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, you are outsiders and those who wander in this world. So I’m asking you not to give in to your sinful desires. They fight against your soul. <sup>12</sup>People who don’t believe might say you are doing wrong. But lead good lives among them. Then they will see your good deeds. And they will give glory to God on the day he comes to judge. **1 PETER 2:10–12***

Have you ever been in a situation where you were not sure what to do because so many people are doing something without any consequence, yet you know it is not pleasing God? Should you do what they do or should you stick to following God even when others urge you to do otherwise? How do you decide what to do?

Let our choices always be guided by the example of Christ. Jesus taught His disciples how to relate to God, treat others, handle money, live compassionately, respect authority, and many other things. He demonstrates how to see the world through God’s eyes and respond in a way that reflects God’s unchanging, holy character. The Bible teaches us how we can have a lifestyle



that demonstrates God's truths and He teaches us to live it out consistently, regardless of what other people say, and whether they see it or not.

## HUDDLE

### Parents to Kids

#### 2-6 years old

- What is one thing you can think of that Jesus teaches you to do?

#### 7-12 years old

- What is one thing you think Jesus is teaching you to do right now?
- Do you struggle to act differently when others are around and when no one is watching?

### Kids to Parents

- Have you ever had to choose between following God and following others? What happened?

There will be many times you will have to decide whether to follow God or to follow the world. If you find yourself in one, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to do the right thing and to give you the grace to obey. Let us be consistent in living out God's call for us to be holy in words, in thoughts, and in action.

## PRAY

Dear God, help us become living witnesses so that others can see Your holiness and goodness through our lives. Help us make wise decisions especially when the call to live as the world does is strong. Thank You for giving us the strength to live holy lives to please You. In Jesus' name, amen.

## DISCOVER

Do you know that there are many times in history when Christians were persecuted for their faith?

Such a time took place during Peter's time. His first letter to the Church was timely written because the Roman leader at that time, Nero, was just starting his campaign to persecute Christians.<sup>3</sup> Being a Christian at that time meant that your life may be in danger and punishment was severe like crucifixion, being burned to death, or being killed by animals in their sports arena.<sup>4</sup>

Peter's letters taught the believers to focus on Jesus even if there is persecution. Today, it teaches us to persevere in our faith and to continue our walk in holiness in the midst of the trials we face.



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<sup>3</sup> "First Peter," The Bible-Teaching Ministry of Pastor Chuck Swindoll, 2010, <https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-general-epistles/first-peter/>.

<sup>4</sup> "Nero Persecutes The Christians, 64 A.D.," EyeWitness to History, 2000, <http://www.eyewitnesshistory.com/christians.htm>.

## NOTES

## Day 4:

# The Crux of Holiness

## CONNECT

We are made holy because of what Jesus did for us. He died on the cross for our sins and this activity will remind us that we are made holy because of Him.

### Let's prepare the following materials:

- 2 small black (or dark-colored) rocks
- 1 small white (or light-colored) rock
- Crayon
- Marker
- Glue
- Hard cardboard (you can also use an illustration board or any flat, hard material that can serve as a base for this craft)
- Glitter glue (optional)

### What to do:

1. Place the three rocks on the cardboard.
2. Below the rocks, write the words:  
**Set apart for God.**



3. Color and decorate the cardboard making sure to color the words you have just written.
4. Take the white rock and write your name on the rock using a marker.
5. Using glue, make a cross onto the white rock. Decorate it with glitter. If glitter glue is not available, you may use a crayon to draw the cross.
6. Glue the three rocks onto the cardboard placing the white rock in between the two black rocks.

The white rock represents you! Because of what Jesus did, you have been washed clean with His blood and made Holy for His service. Whenever we look at this craft, it will help you remember that Jesus made a way for you to be set apart and to make a difference because you belong to Jesus.

## READ THE WORD

We have been talking about holiness. Can you still recall what it means? Being holy means being set apart and that we belong to Jesus.

Today, we will talk about the crux of holiness. The word “crux” means “the most important point at issue.” It comes from the Latin word *crux* which actually means cross. This is because the cross of Jesus Christ is the most important matter of all. Crucifixion is something that we don’t do today. In the time of Jesus, being crucified was a shameful and painful way to die. It was a way for the Romans to humiliate and punish criminals, and they used their captives to warn others. But is the cross of Jesus Christ so important for us to be holy?

In Genesis, we saw the downfall of humanity. God gave them authority over the earth as representatives of God. However,

they sinned by choosing to obey the serpent rather than God. Because of this, they became unholy and fell under the controlling power of sin and death. Ever since then, all their descendants have suffered the same consequence.

But God had a plan. Colossians 2:13–14 says:

*<sup>13</sup>At one time you were dead in your sins. Your desires controlled by sin were not circumcised. But God gave you new life together with Christ. He forgave us all our sins. <sup>14</sup>He wiped out what the law said that we owed. The law stood against us. It judged us. But he has taken it away and nailed it to the cross. **COLOSSIANS 2:13–14***

Jesus Christ broke the power of the sinful nature that controlled us. He took all of our sins and when He died, He also put our sins to death on the cross. By doing this, those who trust in Him are forgiven of all of their sins and are also made spiritually alive. Hebrews 10:10 also says:

*We have been made holy by what God wanted. We have been made holy because Jesus Christ offered his body once and for all time. **HEBREWS 10:10***

But wait, there's more. By offering His body once and for all on the cross, Jesus has made those who trust in Him holy or set apart for God. This is why the cross of Jesus Christ is so important to holiness.

As believers in Jesus, God has already set us apart and given us the power to no longer be controlled by sin. Because of this, we are called to live out our holiness. We are to set apart our thoughts, our words, and our actions for God by following the example of Jesus.

<sup>21</sup>*You were chosen to do good even if you suffer. That's because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example that he expects you to follow.* <sup>22</sup>*Scripture says, "He didn't commit any sin. No lies ever came out of his mouth."*

<sup>23</sup>*People shouted at him and made fun of him. But he didn't do the same thing back to them. When he suffered, he didn't say he would make them suffer. Instead, he trusted in the God who judges fairly.* <sup>24</sup>*"He himself carried our sins" in his body on the cross. He did it so that we would die as far as sins are concerned. Then we would lead godly lives. "His wounds have healed you."* <sup>25</sup>*"You were like sheep wandering away." But now you have returned to the Shepherd. He is the one who watches over your souls.* **1 PETER 2:21-25**

## HUDDLE

### Parents to Kids

#### 2-6 years old

- Did you ever tell a lie?
- Do you know why Jesus had to die?
- Do you trust that Jesus died to forgive you?
- What does it mean when we belong to Jesus?

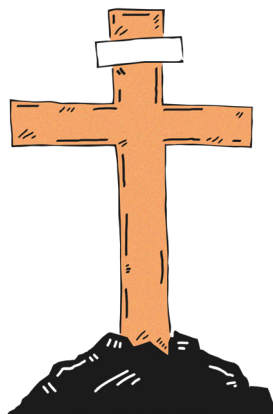
#### 7-12 years old

- What does it mean to be holy?
- What did Jesus do for you and me?
- Have you trusted in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- What are the benefits you get as a child of God?

### Kids to Parents

- Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- How have you experienced God's goodness in your life?
- How has Jesus changed your life?

We can only live holy lives as God's children because of what Jesus did for us. Through Jesus' death on the cross, God shared His holiness to us. Even though we have been given the gift of holiness, living holy lives is still a choice we have to make every single day. Will you make that choice today?



## PRAY

Dear God, I know I am a sinner and that I deserve punishment for my sin. Thank You for dying on the cross for me so that I may be forgiven and be made holy in Your sight. Because of Your sacrifice, I am now holy and have the power to live a holy life. Teach me how to follow the example that Jesus Christ set. Help me make a decision to live out my holiness daily so that I may honor You. In Jesus' name, amen.

## DISCOVER

The Bible Project paints a picture of what holiness looks like.<sup>5</sup> Scan this QR code to watch their video to know more about holiness.



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<sup>5</sup> Tim Mackie and Jon Collins, "What the Idea of "Holiness" Means in the Bible," BibleProject, March 17, 2015, YouTube video, 6:34, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9vn5UvsHvM>.



## NOTES

## Day 5:

# The Commitment of Holiness

## CONNECT

Let's read this short story together:

One day, a boy in Sarah's class was being bullied because he fell, which made his uniform dirty. Sarah wanted to laugh because everyone did. Because Sarah follows Jesus, she thought of what Jesus would have done. Instead of laughing at the boy, Sarah helped him clean his uniform. Then, in a very friendly manner, Sarah just told the rest of the class to give him a break because it's a bit too much. It wasn't easy for her to say that because they might think that she's not cool. But she did it anyway because she believes it was the right thing to do.

What do you think about this story? Is Sarah right or wrong for helping her classmate even



if her other classmates weren't happy about it? What would you have done?

When we say that we are committed to holiness, it means that we are committed to not doing wrong things even if others want us to. It means to always do the right thing even if others are against us. Today, we're going to be reading more about what the Bible says about being committed to doing the right thing.

## READ THE WORD

Let's read 1 Peter 3:13–16:

*<sup>13</sup>Who is going to hurt you if you really want to do good? <sup>14</sup>But suppose you do suffer for doing what is right. Even then you will be blessed. Scripture says, "Don't fear what others say they will do to hurt you. Don't be afraid." <sup>15</sup>But make sure that in your hearts you honor Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect. <sup>16</sup>Live so that you don't have to feel you've done anything wrong. Some people may say evil things about your good conduct as believers in Christ. If they do, they will be put to shame for speaking like this about you. **1 PETER 3:13–16***

Commitment means to be determined to keep doing something even if it's hard. It is like a pledge or a promise to do something. In the Scriptures we just read, Peter encourages us to keep doing good and to continue revering God in our hearts, even in the face of pressures and trials. Keep doing what God wants you to do. When we continually keep our hearts near to God's heart, the Holy Spirit will slowly change us and fill us with His wisdom and strength and that will help us to do what He wants.

In our world today, where the line between following God and following others is blurring, choosing to keep doing good and living holy takes courage and commitment. People will judge you because you are doing things differently than they are but if you have decided in your heart to follow God, then doing what is right will be your natural response. It may be difficult sometimes, but the Holy Spirit will empower you to know and do the right thing. When you make a commitment to live holy, God will help you. He will fill you with courage, wisdom, strength, and love for others. If we are committed to holy living, the way we live will show the world who God is. This could give us a chance to preach the gospel to others.

Do you want to make that commitment to God?

## HUDDLE

### Parents to Kids

#### 2–6 years old

- Can you think of something that you want to promise God that you want to keep doing? (e.g., being friendly to others, not fighting with your siblings, always telling the truth)

#### 7–12 years old

- Can you give an example of doing the right thing, even if many people would not like you for it (e.g., telling a teacher someone bullied a classmate, encouraging others to pay attention to the teacher)? Have you had to struggle with something like this? Tell us about it.

### Kids to Parents

- Were you ever criticized (someone spoke bad of you) for doing something you know is right? What happened?

Do not get tired of doing the right thing. Stay on the path to follow God instead of others. People will have their opinions about you. Sometimes, they may even be your own family and friends, but that may be a good time to tell them about Jesus. As we follow God, it will also be a way for others to come and know Him.



## PRAY

Dear God, by Your grace, I commit to do the right thing for You. As I do this, please give me the courage to do what is good even when it's difficult. Thank you for sending Your Holy Spirit to help me and guide me in living a holy life. In Jesus' name, amen.

## DISCOVER

Do you know how far Peter went in his commitment to a holy life?

He was so committed to Christ that he was martyred for his faith.

Although it is not recorded in the Bible, because of church tradition, it is widely believed that he was crucified upside down, most likely under the Roman emperor Nero.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> "How Did the Apostle Peter Die?," BibleStudy.Org, <https://www.biblestudy.org/question/peter-die.html>.

## NOTES

# Conclusion:

# The Crucible of Holiness

## CONNECT

Here are some interesting facts about nature:

- Between trees that grow on top of the mountains and those on the plains, lumberjacks would prefer the trees on top of mountains because they face the strongest winds and storms, and yet they stand firm and strong. They make the strongest wood for buildings and houses.
- The earth has plenty of metals, but in its natural form, they are usually impure. To increase purity, metals have to undergo refining processes, such as smelting, liquation, electrolysis, and distillation. In one such process, the impure metal is placed in a crucible, which is a special container made of strong materials that can handle really hot temperatures. The metal in the crucible is then heated to very high temperatures. When the metal gets super hot, any dirt or other stuff in it starts to disappear or separate from the metal. This results in a purer form of the metal, which can be used in different industries, such as making electrical devices and crafting jewelry.

In both scenarios, materials that are exposed to outside pressure come out stronger and better. Similarly for us, as we continue

walking with God and living in holiness even through trials and sufferings, we become refined in the process.

## READ THE WORD

*<sup>1</sup>Christ suffered in his body. So prepare yourselves to think in the same way Christ did. Do this because whoever suffers in their body is finished with sin. <sup>2</sup>As a result, they don't live the rest of their earthly life for evil human desires. Instead, they live to do what God wants. . . .*

*<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, don't be surprised by the terrible things happening to you. The trouble you are having has come to test you. So don't feel as if something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>Instead, be joyful that you are taking part in Christ's sufferings. Then you will have even more joy when Christ returns in glory. <sup>14</sup>Suppose people say bad things about you because you believe in Christ. Then you are blessed, because God's Spirit rests on you. He is the Spirit of glory. <sup>15</sup>If you suffer, it shouldn't be because you are a murderer. It shouldn't be because you are a thief or someone who does evil things. It shouldn't be because you interfere with other people's business. <sup>16</sup>But suppose you suffer for being a Christian. Then don't be ashamed. Instead, praise God because you are known by the name of Christ. **1 PETER 4:1-2, 12-16***

Throughout his letter, Peter teaches us about the call to holiness:

- It involves being part of a gathered Christian community (The Community of Holiness);
- It involves an inner battle against sinful desires and against temptations from the world (The Challenge of Holiness);
- It is a call to holy living that follows the example of Jesus (The Conduct of Holiness);



- It is built upon the most important truth that Jesus died on the cross to make us holy and to empower us for holy living (The Crux of Holiness); and
- It requires an inward commitment that results in a change in the way we live (The Commitment of Holiness).

In light of all of the above, in 1 Peter 1:7 and 4:1–19, Peter tells us that our faith will be put to the test to show that it is real. Our trust in the cross of Christ, our inner commitment to live holy, and our following of Christ's example will all be put to the test. It is through the fiery crucible of trials and pain. Like how intense fire and heat are used to make silver and gold more pure, trials and pain are meant to make our faith more pure. They are opportunities for Christians to get closer to God and depend on Him so they can turn away from the impurities of sin and live holy lives.

Trials and pain may come in many different ways. The first Christians suffered a lot for Jesus Christ. People hated them, made fun of them, hurt them, and even killed them. Even today, many Christians around the world are being hurt because they follow Jesus Christ. Trials may also come in the form of temptation to sin. This temptation may come from the sinful desires inside of us. The temptation may come from outside pressure such as from culture and media. They may come from other people, even from family and friends, who would pressure us to do wrong. We may be mocked or made fun of by them because we follow Christ and refuse to do wrong.

In all of these trials, we can be glad because though they are painful, they help make us stronger and trust God more. We can rejoice and are blessed right now because His Spirit is with us and never leaves us. Another reason we can have joy is because when Jesus returns in all of His glory, He will bless us. When

we suffer, we don't have to be ashamed because Jesus will take away our shame when He comes back. He will show everyone that we are right for being a Christian. He will even tell God the Father that He knows us (Matthew 10:32). For all of this, we can praise Him and be encouraged to live a holy life that honors Him.



## HUDDLE

### Parents to Kids

#### 2-6 years old

- Are there things you did in the past that you feel do not please God and therefore you should no longer do?

#### 7-12 years old

- Were you once asked by a classmate or friend to do something you now realize is not God's will? What did you do? How would you deal with them in the future when you meet them?
- Do you feel uncomfortable praying or reading the Bible in places where your friends or classmates can see you? Why? What do you think you can do about it?

### Kids to Parents

- What are the things you consider to be your biggest loss because you chose to obey Jesus Christ? How do you deal with it? What did you learn afterwards?

We already know that being holy means being different or set apart. Just like the vessels that were set aside for use only in the temple of God, our lives are set apart from the world and are only to be used for God. If we want to follow Jesus Christ, we can't just do what the world does. Living holy means we have to give up our sinful desires that don't make God happy. We may face persecution and trials when the world doesn't see us the same way and when we don't follow their ways. We could lose opportunities, friends, family, or even our own lives in the worst case. Our hope and security come from the fact that our Lord Jesus is always looking out for us. We have real peace, love, and joy in our hearts when we obey God, even when it's hard. And the Lord will bring people into our lives who also love God.

## PRAY

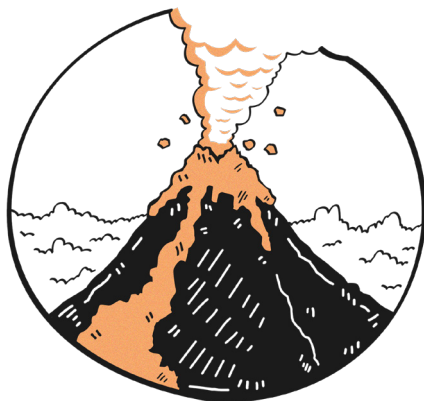
Dear God, thank You for helping us through tough times and making our faith stronger, like gold in a fire. Please give us the strength to do the right thing, just like Jesus did, even when it's hard. We know that life can be tough, with bad people, hard times, and temptations to do wrong. But we trust that You're always with us, and when Jesus comes back, He'll make everything right. We won't be ashamed because we believe in Him, and we want to live in a way that makes You happy. Help us love and be kind to others, and let our lives shine with Your love for everyone to see. We ask for Your guidance and wisdom in all we do, and may we always be thankful for your blessings. In Jesus' name, amen.

## DISCOVER

Did you know that refining with flame is one of the oldest methods of refining metals? In ancient times, this form of refining involved a craftsman sitting next to a hot fire with

molten gold in a crucible being stirred and skimmed to remove the impurities or dross that rose to the top of the molten metal. With flames reaching temperatures in excess of 1000° Celsius, this job was definitely a dangerous occupation for the gold refiner.<sup>7</sup>

To illustrate the heat at this temperature, the boiling point of water is about 100° Celsius. Magma in volcanoes, on the other hand, is between 700° and 1,300° Celsius.<sup>8</sup>



The result is a purified metal. But the Bible says, we who are tested by sufferings will have faith more precious than gold (1 Peter 1:7). Job, in the Old Testament, uttered the similar words in Job 23:10, *“When he has tested me, I’ll come out as pure as gold.”*

May we remain steadfast and strong in our faith as God continues to purify us.

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<sup>7</sup> “How to refine gold,” Gold Traders, <https://www.gold-traders.co.uk/gold-information/how-to-refine-gold.asp/>.

<sup>8</sup> “Magma’s Role in the Rock Cycle,” National Geographic, last updated March 13, 2023, <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/magma-role-rock-cycle/>.

## NOTES









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