



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

11 APR 2021 | GOD IS HOLY! | ISAIAH 6:1-7

Series : I AM | Speaker : Pastor Lionel Goh



WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. You Are Holy
2. Be Unto Your Name



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that holiness is the crown attribute of God's moral perfection.
2. Be motivated to choose the pathway of God's holiness for our lives.
3. Commit to practical ways to holiness as individuals and as a cell.

SERMON SUMMARY

God is holy. Holiness is the crown attribute of His moral perfection. Jesus is holy and did not sin even when He lived in a sin-filled world. Jesus went against the spiritual principle of defilement whereby the unclean defiles the clean. Instead, Jesus cleansed every defiled person who touched Him and whom He touched. God calls us to be holy, but we cannot do this by our own efforts. How then do we live holy lives? By consecrating ourselves at the Altar, letting the Holy Spirit guides us, obeying God's Word and confessing our sins. We need to allow Jesus to cleanse and sanctify us.

SERMON RECAP

- 1. The Holiness of God ([Isaiah 6:1-7](#)).** God is holy! Ps Lionel Goh preached that holiness is the crown attribute of God's moral perfection.
 - The meaning of holiness – being morally perfect and pure, set apart from all sins. God is separated and above His creation, being wholly other, transcendent and different.
 - The effect of His holiness on the seraphim (v 2-4) – the majestic, angelic beings continuously singing praises to God “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with His glory.”
 - The impact of His holiness on mortal men (v 5-7, [Exodus 33:20](#)) – created beings in the presence of the Holy God feel unfit and aware of their own unworthiness and uncleanness.
- 2. The Holiness of Jesus.** The Bible points out that Jesus is holy. Jesus did not sin when He lived in a sin-filled world.
 - In His birth ([Luke 1:35](#)) – at His birth, the angel declared Jesus' holiness and that He will be called the “Son of God.”
 - In His earthly life ([1 Peter 2:22](#), [Hebrews 4:15](#)) – because of His earthly life, Jesus sympathises with all our weaknesses. Jesus could identify with the human race in every way – for He was tempted as we are, yet He did not sin.
- 3. The Cleansing Power of Jesus.** Jesus went against the spiritual principle of defilement whereby the unclean defiles the clean. Instead, Jesus cleansed every defiled person who touched Him and whom He touched.
 - The spiritual principle of defilement – the unclean always defiles the clean ([Leviticus 22:4-5](#), [Haggai 2:11-13](#))
 - Yet Jesus cleansed every defiled person who touched Him – Ps Lionel cited the following powerful examples from the Bible.
 - The leper ([Mark 1:40-42](#))
 - The woman with bleeding issue ([Matthew 9:19-22](#))
 - The immoral woman ([Luke 7:36-50](#)).
- 4. God Calls Us to Be Holy ([1 Peter 1:15-16](#))**
- 5. How Can We Be Holy?** God calls us to be holy, but we cannot do this by our own efforts. Ps Lionel highlights two important ways Jesus can make us holy if/when we allow Him:
 - Jesus cleanses His Church ([Ephesians 5:25-26](#))
 - Jesus provides a Divine Exchange ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).
- 6. Practical Ways to Holiness.** Ps Lionel described practical steps we can take to commit to holy living. We need to allow Jesus to cleanse and sanctify us.
 - Consecrate ourselves at the altar ([Romans 12:1](#))
 - Let the Holy Spirit lead us ([Galatians 5:16](#))
 - Obey God's Word ([Psalm 119:9](#))
 - Confess our sins and let Jesus cleanse us ([1 John 1:9](#)).

Principle: Don't strive on our own strength! Allow Jesus to make us holy!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What interest do you think the modern Christian has in the topic of the holiness of God? Is this topic discussed much in the church? How important do you think it is?** [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a thought-provoking, ice-breaking question. It seems that we do not speak about holiness much these days. Some Christians when they think of holiness approach the topic with fear, misunderstanding, and the notion that it is for someone else but not for me. Yet God's command in [1 Peter 1:15-16](#) is clear for His people to pursue holy living.

Ps Lionel drew attention to the seraphim praising God "holy, holy, holy" – see [Isaiah 6:2-3](#), explaining that this is to convey emphasis and importance of this attribute. This is the only one characteristic of God that is communicated in the superlative degree from the mouths of angels. Holiness is the characteristic of God's nature that is at the very core of His being. Only through a deep encounter with God and when confronted with God's holiness (i.e., being morally perfect and pure, set apart from sins, above His creation and transcendent, etc.), can a Christian genuinely appreciate the greatness of His majesty and to see ourselves as we really are. Because God is holy, He hates sin ([Zechariah 8:17](#)). As we grow in holiness, we grow in hatred of sin; and God, being infinitely holy, has an infinite hatred of sin. Therefore, every time we sin, we are doing something God hates. He hates our lustful thoughts, our pride and jealousy, our outbursts of temper, and our rationalisation that the end justifies the means. We need to be gripped by the fact that God hates all these things. We become so accustomed to our sins we sometimes lapse into a state of peaceful coexistence with them, but God never ceases to hate them.

References and adaptations from "[Introduction: Getting a Grip on God's Chief Attribute](#)" and "[The Holiness of God – a teaching series by Dr RC Sproul](#)."

Transition

We need to rightly position God as He is Holy. As Christians, we must have a correct understanding of holiness and our call to holy living. The next question goes further to discuss the motivations to holy living.

2. **It often seems a lot easier to go with the flow of our natural, fleshy desires than to deny our flesh and choose the pathway of holiness. Have you made a commitment to be holy? What are your motivations?** [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a relate question for members to examine our motivations as Christians to commit to holy living. In [Isaiah 6:5](#), as the prophet Isaiah encounters with God's holiness, he becomes acutely aware of his sin and the sinfulness of the society around him. Similarly, as we decide to draw near to God, we often become more aware of sins in our lives and of the world we live in. Therefore, we need to make the tough, daily choice to choose holiness. Understanding what the Bible says about holy living can be pivotal.

These are seven biblical motivations for holy living:

- a. Because God is holy (and our lives are intended to portray the image of God) – [1 Peter 1:15-16](#)
- b. Because holiness is God's stated goal for every believer – [Ephesians 1:4](#); [1 John 3:3](#)
- c. Because Jesus died to deliver us from sin – [Galatians 1:3b-4](#)
- d. Because we are saints (and God's "new creation" – [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)); [Ephesians 5:3](#)
- e. Because our intimacy with God depends on it – [Psalm 24:3-4](#); [Matthew 5:8](#)
- f. Because we are going to live eternally in the Holy City (and we need to get ready now) – [Revelation 21:27](#)
- g. Because the well-being of others depends on it – [John 17:9](#); [Deuteronomy 12:28](#).

As adapted from the Internet resource on "[The Motivation For Holiness](#)." Leaders can bring up and discuss with members on these specific motivations.

Transition

Members can encourage one another to stay motivated and committed to holy living. The world desperately needs to see what God is like. Our example ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#)) may inspire someone who is watching us to choose or reject the pathway of holiness. Having examined these biblical motivations for holy living, we can then follow up and discuss ways for us to live holy lives.

3. Read [1 Peter 1:15-16](#). God calls us to be holy. Discuss practical ways how you can be holy in your daily lives as an individual and as a cell. [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

It is important to emphasise the principle that we do not strive on our own strength. Instead, we allow Jesus to make us holy. Jesus has cleansed His Church ([Ephesians 5:25-26](#)) and has paid the price for our sins so that we can be righteous ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). Members can discuss and pray over how we can hold one another accountable in the following practical ways to holiness as listed by Ps Lionel Goh:

- a. Consecrate ourselves at the Altar – [Romans 12:1](#)
- b. Let the Holy Spirit lead us – [Galatians 5:16](#)
- c. Obey God's Word – [Psalm 119:9](#)
- d. Confess our sins and let Jesus cleanse us – [1 John 1:9](#).

Closing

In essence, holiness involves seeking the Lord and His presence. It requires continually "setting of the mind and heart" on God ([Colossians 3:1-2](#)), being aware of and not derailed by possible obstacles along our spiritual journey.

Recommended books on God's holiness:

1. *The Holiness of God* by RC Sproul
2. *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges
3. *Rediscovering Holiness* by JI Packer



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. **Season of Consecration**
 - Pray that every RiverLifer will go through this season of consecration intentionally, and that a new normal in our lives would emerge.
 2. **COVID-19**
 - Continue to pray for the spread of the virus to come to a halt.
 - Pray for the recovery of our nation's economy.
 3. **Myanmar**
 - Pray for peace and stability to return to this nation.
 - Pray that God will protect and provide for our brothers and sisters in that nation.
-



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
2. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS) Family Run.** 31 May to 13 Jun. Sign up online: <rlc.sg/rcsrn>.



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

SCAN ME



2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029

