

## Outline

Introduction: Who should I be?

Week 1: God Most Holy

Week 2: God Most Loving

Week 3: God Most Good

Week 4: God Most Just

Week 5: God Most Merciful

Week 6: God Most Gracious

Week 7: God Most Faithful

Week 8: God Most Patient

Week 9: God Most Truthful

Week 10: God Most Wise

## How this Study Works

Over the next couple of months, we will be studying God's will for our lives. We'll learn answers to the question "Who should I be?" by looking at who God is and how we can reflect His image in our own lives.

This study follows the outline of the book "In His Image" by Jen Wilkin. While we'll be looking at ideas she presents, the book is not necessary for us to find answers to these questions. Our primary study source will be God's Word, and these daily prompts will reflect that. For those of you who choose to read "In His Image," I recommend reading the related chapter on the weekend. For those of you not reading the book, I'll include the full quote any time I reference it, so you won't feel a need to purchase the book. However, if you'd like a book provided for you, just let me know. You may also want to pick up a journal to write your thoughts as you study. While we work through this study, please pray for the women of our congregation and community - that those who need answers to big questions and those who need to refocus on God will find their way to our class, so that God can show His image through us.

Each day will also include a song of worship to carry with you throughout the day. Several will probably be new to you, so I've added them all to a YouTube playlist here:

<http://bit.ly/in-his-image>

*God, help us as we learn more about you. Help us set aside any incorrect assumptions and understand who you truly are. As we learn more about you, we want to become more and more like you. Give us opportunities to reflect your image into the world, and let the light we reflect lead people to salvation in you. We are already in awe of all the work you have done in the world, and we are excited to see what you do over the coming weeks. In the name of your son Jesus, Amen*

Week 2 Day 1

**Focus:**

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

**Engage:**

Ancient writers often repeated words or phrases to add emphasis. There is only one attribute of God in the Bible that is repeated 3 times - holy, holy, holy.

Modern churches tend to emphasize certain aspects of God's character, such as love or justice. It's understandable that holiness isn't usually our first thought - it's difficult to understand what holiness looks like because we are generally not surrounded by holiness. (It's so uncommon that my computer's autocorrect just tried to change "holiness" to "happiness".) However, holiness is an integral part of who God really is.

"God deserves our worship for both his love and his justice. But his love and his justice are imbued with and defined by his holiness - he does not merely love; he loves out of utter purity of character. He does not merely act justly; he acts justly out of utter purity of character. If we emphasize any one of his attributes above or apart from his holiness, we fashion him after our own imagining or for our own ends. His love becomes love on human terms, rather than holy love. His justice becomes justice on human terms, rather than holy justice." (25)

Exodus 15:11

1 Samuel 2:2

Isaiah 6:1-7

Isaiah 57:15

Revelation 4:1-11

**Assess:**

As you read each passage above, take note of the context. Who is talking about God? Why do they call Him holy? What is the effect of their declaration of God's holiness?

**Spark Transformation:**

What attribute do you tend to think of first, when you think of God?

What word would you repeat about yourself 3 times in a row? Is this the word God would choose to use about you?

**Turn to God:**

In Revelation, the 24 elders fall at the feet of God to worship Him. In Isaiah 6, the seraphim cover their eyes and feet in the presence of the Holy One. Try one of these positions today as you ask God to help you remove unholiness so you can be more like Him (similar to Isaiah's prayer in chapter 6.)

Today's Song: "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty"

Week 2 Day 2

**Focus:**

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

**Engage:**

Holy, for I am Holy

Leviticus 11:44-45

Leviticus 19:2

Leviticus 20:7-8

Leviticus 20:22-26

Matthew 5:48

1 Peter 1:13-21

Each of these verses repeats a certain phrase. As you read each, write the reference of the previous and next one in the margins of your Bible. This will create a scripture trail to help you find other similar verses the next time you are studying. (For example, next to Lev 19:2, write Lev 11: 44-45 and Lev 20:7-8.)

**Assess:**

What are the circumstances of each of these passages? Why does God think saying "holy, for I am Holy" is important in each situation? What would the audience have understood about what it means on a practical, day-to-day level?

**Spark Transformation:**

What does being holy in response to God's holiness mean to you on a practical, day-to-day level?

**Turn to God:**

Spend a few minutes today praising God for His holy nature.

Today's Song: "You are Holy (Prince of Peace)"

Week 2 Day 3

**Focus:**

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

**Engage:**

"Holiness permeates the entire Christian calling. It lies at the very center of the gospel. We are not merely saved from depravity; we are saved to holiness." (25)

Holiness is worship

2 Cor 6:16-7:1

Rom 6:20-23

Romans 12:1-2

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Eph 4:17-24

**Assess:**

What do we learn about holiness from these passages? How are holiness and the will of God connected?

**Spark Transformation:**

Last week, we looked at God's holiness in the temple. Paul told the Corinthians "we are the temple of the living God." What does that mean in our lives on a theoretical level? What about on a practical, day-to-day level?

**Turn to God:**

Use Psalm 84 as a starting point for your worship today.

Today's song: "10,000 Reasons"

Week 2 Day 4

**Focus:**

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

**Engage:**

Jesus is Holy and makes us holy

Mark 1:21-28

Heb 7:23-8:2

Eph 1:3-10

Hebrews 10:8-18

1 John 1:5-9

"Our inclination is to discern God's will by asking 'What should I do?' But God's will concerns itself primarily with who we are, and only secondarily with what we do. By changing the question and asking, 'Who should I be?' we see that God's will is not concealed from us in His Word, but is plainly revealed... God's will for our lives is that we conform to the image of Christ, whose incarnation shows us humanity perfectly conformed to the image of God." (20-21)

**Assess:**

How would thinking of Christ as the Holy High Priest have changed the way the first century Christians thought of Him?

According to Paul in Ephesians 1, God's Will was a mystery until Christ came with "a new teaching with authority" (Mark 1:27). How would not knowing the fullness of Christ have affected the Israelites who were under the law?

How can Jesus be both the High Priest and the Sacrifice?

How can we be sanctified (made holy)?

**Spark Transformation:**

"How have you regarded God's will for your life primarily as 'What to do' versus 'Who to be'? Think of a current key decision you are facing. Are your prayer requests limited to specific outcomes? Do your prayers exclude a simple request to be sanctified? How might you change your prayers about that key decision?" (29)

**Turn to God:**

Praise God today starting with Psalm 96

Today's Song: "Refiner's Fire"

Week 2 Day 5

**Focus:**

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

**Engage:**

Growing in Holiness

Jam 1:2-4

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Titus 2:11-14

Philippians 1:3-11

2 Tim 3:16-17

Hebrews 12:10-14

**Assess:**

During His time on earth, Jesus showed us an example and taught a new way to live. He "deconstructs the Old Testament laws on murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, retaliation, and treatment of enemies, pointing to a deeper obedience of not merely outward actions but also inward motives." (26) Then, His disciples throughout the New Testament reassure one another and us that (A) we are already made holy through Jesus and (B) we can grow in holiness with God's help.

How would these truths have affected the Christians of the first century?

What life changes did they make in response?

What mindset changes would they have had to adopt?

**Spark Transformation:**

"Describe a time in your life when you experienced an acute awareness of sin. What was the cause of your awareness? What was the result?" (29)

Do you consider yourself to be holy?

What changes should you make to grow in holiness?

**Turn to God:**

In your prayers today, ask God to show your sin in contrast to his holiness, thank Him that you're holy through Christ, and ask for help growing in holiness.

Use Psalm 103 as a starting point for your worship today.

Today's Song: "Do not fear, I am the Lord"