

### WARM-UP

- Are you the type who saves the best for last? Share an instance that shows this.
- Name one person whose correction you trust. What makes this person trustworthy?
- Tell us about a time you received mercy instead of punishment.

**WORD** *<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!*

**PSALM 96:8-9**

(Read also **PSALM 96:1-7**.)

One common phrase we hear as Christians is about God being holy. But what does holiness really mean? How can we say God is holy? How can we say we are holy? From its original Hebrew translation, holiness is “apartness” or “sacredness”—something set apart, different from anything else. In Scripture, we can see two aspects of God’s holiness: His goodness and His greatness. Today, we’ll be talking about God’s holiness (His goodness and greatness) and what it means for our personal holiness.

## 1 | God is holy in His goodness.

<sup>2</sup>*Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.* <sup>3</sup>*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!* **PSALM 96:2-3**

(Read also **EXODUS 33:18-19; 34:6-7.**)

One aspect of God's holiness is His goodness. When Moses asked God to show him His glory, God responded by showing His *goodness* (Exodus 33:18-19). Rather than just showing Moses His might and power, God revealed His mercy, grace, justice, love, and faithfulness. The glory and holiness of God can be seen in His goodness, how He relates with us. In His goodness, He is far above and apart from any physical or spiritual being. How have you experienced God's goodness?

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## 2 | God is holy in His greatness.

<sup>3</sup>*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!* <sup>4</sup>*For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.* <sup>5</sup>*For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.* **PSALM 96:3-5**

Another aspect of God's holiness is His greatness. While His goodness displays His love and justice, His greatness displays how far superior He is to all other beings. God is *great, and greatly to be praised*, because He is the only sovereign God, the only Creator, wielding awesome power. No one is like God in His greatness, power, and works. How have you experienced God's greatness?

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### 3 | God is holy, so He deserves our worship.

<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! **PSALM 96:8-9**

Having a glimpse into the holiness of God—His unmatched goodness and greatness— Scripture shows us that the only appropriate response to God’s holiness is worship. The greatest worship we can give is to offer our bodies as a *living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God* (Romans 12:1). This means worshipping God with our whole lives—our thoughts, words, and actions. Psalm 96 overflows with descriptions of how we can express our worship to God. Singing is just a small part of this. What does 1 Peter 1:14–16 say about our holiness and God’s?

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#### APPLICATION

- How does this discussion affect the way you view holiness? How can we say that we are holy?
- Are there ways your thoughts, words, or actions might not be honoring God? How can the truths discussed today help you realign your thoughts, words, and actions to God’s holiness?
- In what ways do you express your worship to our holy God? Knowing that we are meant to be a *living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God*, what are other ways you can express your worship to God every day?

