

WHITFIELD PARISH
St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 8 February 2009
Holiness: I Peter 1.13 – 2.12

Before you read the passage together and look at the questions, explore what the word 'holiness' means to you.

1. What does the Bible mean by holiness?
2. Why should Christians be holy? (v.16)
What does this passage tell us about the fundamental reason why God's people should be holy?
3. How do we become holy? (v.18-19)
I Corinthians 6.11 reminds us: 'But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.'
4. How do we remain holy? This is the crunch question!

Interestingly, verse 13 of I Peter 1 tells us to 'prepare (our) **minds** for action'. Explore why Peter chooses the word 'minds' rather than 'bodies' or 'spirits'.

What is the conflict that we will find when we commit ourselves to living God's way? (v.14)

Why does Peter draw our attention to the death of the Lord Jesus Christ? (v.18-21)

5. What about when we get it wrong?
6. What effect will living a holy life have? (1.22-2.12)

WHITFIELD PARISH
St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 8 February 2009
Holiness: I Peter 1.13 – 2.12

Before you read the passage together and look at the questions, explore what the word 'holiness' means to you.

1. What does the Bible mean by holiness?
2. Why should Christians be holy? (v.16)
What does this passage tell us about the fundamental reason why God's people should be holy?
3. How do we become holy? (v.18-19)
I Corinthians 6.11 reminds us: 'But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.'
4. How do we remain holy? This is the crunch question!

Interestingly, verse 13 of I Peter 1 tells us to 'prepare (our) **minds** for action'. Explore why Peter chooses the word 'minds' rather than 'bodies' or 'spirits'.

What is the conflict that we will find when we commit ourselves to living God's way? (v.14)

Why does Peter draw our attention to the death of the Lord Jesus Christ? (v.18-21)

5. What about when we get it wrong?
6. What effect will living a holy life have? (1.22-2.12)

Leaders' Notes

Once I got started preparing these notes I realised it was a very large subject for one study, so please don't be discouraged if you feel you have only scratched the surface. I hope it will give you a hunger to go deeper as you read God's word for yourself.

Here are a few pointers to help you in your preparation.

Question 1: What is holiness?

John White writes about 'the descent into holiness'. By that he means getting off our high horses when we 'realise that the Bible was not given to us so that we could master it, but because the God of Scripture wants to master us as we read it.'

K.F.W Prior writes: 'Holiness . . . is the characteristic mark of a Christian.' Ephesians 1.4: *'He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.'* Holiness is not an option nor is it just for 'saints' in stained glass windows: *'Without holiness no-one will see the Lord.'* Hebrews 12.14

Question 2: Why be holy?

What does this passage tell us about the fundamental reason why God's people should be holy? (v.16)

Paul makes the same point in I Thessalonians 4.3: 'It is God's will that you should be sanctified.'

(In Hebrew and Greek the words translated in English as 'holy' 'holiness', 'sanctification', sanctified come from the same root.)

God is a holy God: in the OT he is often referred to as 'the Holy One of Israel'. Holiness is at the heart of God's character and he wants his people to be holy too. In Deuteronomy 5.29 God spoke to Moses in reference to the people of Israel: *'Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever.'* You might like to unpack this verse in your discussion.

Question 3: How do we become holy? (v18-19)

Here's your opportunity to talk about God's grace - don't waste it! I Corinthians 6.11 reminds us: *'But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.'*

Question 4: How do we remain holy? This is the crunch question! Interestingly, verse 13 of I Peter 1 tells us to 'prepare (our) **minds** for action'. Explore why Peter chooses the word 'mind' rather than 'body' or 'spirit'.

What is the conflict that we will find when we commit ourselves to living God's way? (v.14)

Why does Peter draw our attention to the death of the Lord Jesus Christ? (v.18-21)

Look back to Ch1.2 which reminds us of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

Holiness is God's desire for us, so he will help us to be holy if we ask him.

Question 5: What about when we get it wrong?

Think about the difference between 'apologising' and 'repenting'?

As you are talking together it may become clear that someone in the group is struggling with guilt: it is a very common problem. Indeed a famous psychologist said that if he could find a cure for guilt he would lose 90% of his caseload. There is a cure! If necessary camp out for a while on this subject; stop and pray for anyone who needs it and share scriptures which will assure them of God's forgiveness. (Examples are: I John 1.8-9; I John 2.1-2; John 3.16-17)

Exodus 34.6-7 is one of my favourite scriptures, reminding us that God is 'slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness'. See also Isaiah 30.15: *'In repentance and rest is your salvation.'*

Question 6: What effect will living a holy life have? (1.22-2.12)

It's all in there!

Have fun! I'd be pleased to receive feedback: is having separate Leaders' Notes helpful?

(dorothy@literaryconnections.co.uk)