

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2025

Class Curriculum - The Christian Life

Age - Senior Campers

Friday - Holiness

Summary

1. Subject: Holiness
2. Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13-2:12
3. Grade/Level: Senior Campers
4. Objective: Help your campers understand the holiness of God and how our lives will change when we incorporate that holiness
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Lesson

Overview: This week's classes will focus on ethics, or in other words, "Christian Living". This will be applied differently to every age group. Each class will begin by reading through select passages of scripture, with a guided commentary of each, as well as reading comprehension questions, then a discussion guide for the topic of the day.

Today's lesson will focus on holiness. This is the capstone of Christian living. When we become Christians, we are sanctified by the blood of Christ and become a holy people. When we commit ourselves to Christian living, we find that holiness manifests in many ways. It is both a gift we are given and a goal we are to strive for.

1 Peter 1:13-25

1 Peter 1:13-16

The word “therefore” tells us that the following section is closely linked to the thoughts that came before. In the beginning of Peter’s epistle, he addresses Christians who have been scattered across the regions because of persecution. He begins this letter with an encouraging reminder of the hope we have in salvation. This hope is so strong that everything else pales in comparison. Fully realizing this hope, Peter says we are “therefore” to be ready for action, obedient, and holy.

1 Peter 1:22-25

Holiness is distinctive. Here, Peter describes some of the ways holiness sets us apart from the world around us. Our “purification” is seen in our obedience to God and our love for each other. Moreover, our holiness is obvious when we are people of eternal perspective. Peter quotes Isaiah 40:7-8 to remind us that everything physical will pass away, and the only thing that will last forever is the “word of the Lord,” which is the good news of Jesus Christ and all people in His covenant. With this perspective in mind, Christians should be noticeably different. Not bogged down with the concerns of this world, but having our minds set on things above.

Reading Comprehension:

- What does it mean to be holy? How is God holy? How are Christians holy? (Traditionally, holiness is often defined as “separate” or “set apart”; however, it is more than just being separated. It is a righteous distinctiveness. A recognizable difference from the things around you that embodies goodness)
- Are Christians made holy by God, or is holiness something we achieve through our actions? (In a way, both. We are sanctified and made holy when we are baptized, yet are also called to live lives of holiness, being different and distinct from the sinful world around us).

1 Peter 3:17-21

Here, we see the source of our holiness and what makes Christians distinct from the rest of the world: the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ. God will judge the world, but we have been “ransomed” from our sinful way of living and are instead given a higher calling. Our holiness comes directly from Jesus Christ and is made possible by the sanctification He offers. This holiness will set us apart from others during our lives and will set us apart from others during judgment.

1 Peter 2:1-12

1 Peter 2:1-5

Similar to the word “therefore” in 1:13, 2:1 begins with “so”, which connects the previous reading to this. Understanding the holiness of God, which we are to have ourselves, we must abstain from sinful living. In verse 2, we see a hint that Peter is writing to new Christians, encouraging them to seek “spiritual milk”. This contrasts with Hebrews and 1 Corinthians, where mature Christians are rebuked for continuing to need “spiritual milk” instead of having heavier teaching. To these young Christians, Peter tells them that they are “living stones”: the building blocks used by God.

1 Peter 2:9-12

With all of this in mind, Peter concludes these thoughts with the statement that we are holy. A holy nation and a distinct people. This holiness must result in each of us proclaiming the goodness of God and living lives that are noticeably different than the world around us.

Reading Comprehension:

- Peter says to “long for spiritual milk”. Other passages in scripture tell mature Christians that they should no longer need spiritual milk but instead have “meat”. What is the difference between these two things? What do you think you need for your spiritual life right now?
- We are “living stones” built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ. This means we are the building blocks of the kingdom of God. What does this look like on Earth? What do you think this will look like in Heaven?

DISCUSSION

Remaining Time

Guided Discussion:

Many people have defined holiness as being “separate”, “set apart”, or “set aside”. While this is certainly one aspect of holiness, it paints a picture of holiness as being distant or removed. This is not what we see with God. He is completely holy, yet intimately involved with mankind. Likewise, we should be separate from the world but remain in it, longing to form relationships with others that ultimately bring them to Christ.

Ask, “How should we balance being holy and 'set apart' from the world, with remaining in the world to make positive changes for Christ?”. Christians are called to both of these things. The great commission, Paul’s missionary journeys, and many of Paul’s epistles focus on the necessity of going into the world and working within it. Being holy like God is holy calls us to be distinct from it. The balance lies in influence. We should be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, influencing those around us (Matthew 5:13-16). If we are not careful, the world can influence us instead (Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 15:33). We are to be as involved with the world as possible, up to the point where it begins to influence us; then, we must be wary.

- How can you positively influence those around you, in the name of Christ?
- What are some red flags and warning signs that you are being influenced by the world around you? How can you fight against this? Should we stay involved, or is there a point where we should retreat to maintain our holiness?
- Jesus is the example to us in all things.
 - In what ways is Jesus distinctly holy?
 - In what ways did He put Himself “in the world” to influence it? (Coming to earth in the form of a man, constantly visiting with sinners and tax collectors, not being a part of the religious elite, etc)
 - Was He ever tempted to live like the world? (His only temptation is recorded in Matthew 4 and Luke 4, and was not a result of peer pressure like our usual temptations are today),
- After this week of camp, what are some ways that we can continue to recognize and live up to our holiness?