



## **GOD IS HOLY**

Holiness is totally a religious word to us. It only makes sense in the context of God and Jesus. Sadly, we use it more in the negative sense by criticizing someone for being “Holier than thou.” We may have a hard time describing what holiness is or looks like because it seems elusive to us mere mortals. But then, one might ask, why does God call us to be holy if it’s unattainable? We still have a lot to learn about God and Jesus and how grace is the starting place on our journey of holiness.

**When you hear “Be holy as I (God) am holy,” what thoughts and feelings come to mind?**

## **TALK ABOUT IT**

The sermon emphasized that grace comes *before* holiness.

**Why do you think the order matters so much?**

**What happens when that order gets reversed?**

The sermon mentioned that Jesus is popular in culture right now. Celebrities, athletes, politicians, maybe even we praise Jesus in public but live as though our actions have nothing to do with what we say we believe.

**What do you think makes it tempting to talk about Jesus without really letting Him change us?**

**Talk about the tension between professing faith and living a transformed life?**

**Which false narrative do you struggle with more and why?**

- “God is disappointed with me because of my sin”
- or “God is understanding about how I choose to live”?

## **APPLY IT**

**Read Romans 6:1-2.**

Grace isn’t just something God has freely given. Grace, over time, should change us (become more holy).

**Can you give some examples of how God’s grace has changed you or is changing you?**

Romans 6 talks about dying to sin and living a new life.

**What do you think that looks like practically—not perfectly, but honestly?**

**Read 1 John 1:8-9.**

John promises forgiveness and cleansing when we confess our sins.

**Why do you think confession is so hard?**

**What might freedom look like if we confessed more honestly?**

### **PRAY TOGETHER**

Remember your practice for this week. Spend some time confessing and being honest with God so you can experience and thrive in freedom to live a holy, not perfect, but holy life.