

UNIT 6 | SESSION 4

NO ONE IS LIKE GOD

1 PETER 1

KEY PASSAGE:

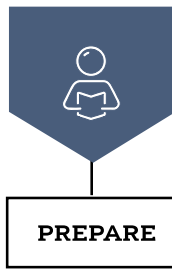
Exodus 15:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

No one is like God. God is holy, good, and loving. Jesus shows us what God is like and gives us hope. God can make us more like Jesus. We can trust Him and live joyfully for Him.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Peter began his first epistle by reminding believers that we are not of this world; our true citizenship is found in God’s kingdom. As such, we live in the present world as exiles and ambassadors—representatives of our true King.

With this reminder established, Peter explained how Christ’s ambassadors are to live, which can be summed up in God’s words recorded at the end of 1 Peter 1:16, “Be holy, because I am holy.” Peter draws this imperative from Leviticus 11:44-45, where God had told the Israelites this twice in rapid succession.

To be holy is to be set apart, to be different in a good way. As such, holiness is at the core of the Old Testament law. The reason behind many of God’s commands that may make us scratch our heads is holiness. These commands were to teach Israel what it means to be holy and to model holiness to the watching world. All of this points us to the even greater idea of God’s holiness. God’s people—His image bearers—are to imitate God.

So far so good, right? But this is where the wheels fall off of the cart. When we turn our attention to God’s holiness, we quickly come to the point of recognizing that this is an impossible standard. God is perfectly

holy. There is absolutely no sin in Him. He is perfectly loving, kind, and good without an ounce of hate or evil. How are we supposed to be this holy? Why would God command us to do something we cannot do?

The answer to that last question is that God gave this command exactly because we cannot do it. We cannot be holy enough—not even close. Not on our own, that is. But the beauty of the gospel shows us another way. We can indeed be holy as God is holy because Christ is holy. And when we trust in Christ, our sin is removed and in its place we are credited with Christ’s perfect righteousness. (2 Cor. 5:21) We obey this command of God by trusting in Christ!

But it doesn’t end there. We are holy in our identity in Christ, but each day we are to strive to live out our new, true holy identity. Every day, our goal is to live as who we now are, rather than who we were. Even this though, is done not in our power, but in Christ’s power. No one is like God in His fullness, but in Christ, we as His children are called and empowered to be like Him in many ways.

TERMS TO KNOW

Holy: means “to be separate” and describes God’s character as totally unique and separate from what He has created. God’s holiness describes His perfect goodness, purity, and righteousness.

WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Do you like change? Think about a time when something changed that you didn’t like. How did you respond? ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: WHAT CHANGED?



Guide kids to choose a partner. Then instruct them to face their partners. Tell the kids they will have 10 seconds to study their partners. Then they will turn back-to-back and they will have 10 more seconds to change something about their appearances.

When the time is up, guide partners to turn back around to face each other and attempt to determine what has changed about their partners’ appearance. Kids can choose new partners if time allows.

SAY “ When we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our physical appearance may stay the same, but we do change because we are given new life in Jesus. What are some ways a person might change after becoming a Christian? [Allow kids to respond.] Listen closely to today’s story to find out more. ”

OPTION 2: WHO IS ... ?

Give each kid an index card. On the card, a kid should list three words to describe himself. Kids may list physical characteristics, hobbies, or personality traits. Each kid should write his own name at the bottom of the card.

Collect all the cards and read them aloud one at a time. Challenge kids to guess who the words describe.

SAY “ No two people are alike. Even identical twins have different thoughts, desires, and interests. God created you just as He planned. In today’s story, we will discover some words we can use to describe who God is and who He wants us to be. ”

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Welcome! It’s so good to see you. I’m [your name]. If you brought your Bible, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. He gives us the Bible so we can know Him. The Bible tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

What does the Bible teach us about God? [Allow kids to respond.] Thank you for sharing those ideas! There’s no one like God. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Peter 1. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “No One Is Like God.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

NO ONE IS LIKE GOD

“**Peter**, a follower of Jesus, **wrote a letter to Christians. He reminded them of what God had done for them.** When a person believes God’s good news about Jesus, it changes the way he or she lives. **Peter’s letter encouraged Christians to live like Jesus.**”

Peter told **God’s people** that they **should be holy.** Believers have hope because Jesus will come again. **Peter wrote, “Before you trusted in Jesus, you lived however you wanted and did evil things. Jesus gave His life to save you so you could have true life in Him.** Jesus is like the perfect lamb that God’s people sacrificed.”

Peter wrote, **“Now you are God’s children, so don’t go back to how you used to live. Obey God. He has a better life for you.”** Peter reminded believers of God’s words to the Israelites. **God had said, “Be holy because I am holy.”**

What does it mean to be holy? **Being holy means being set apart.** It means being different from everyone else. **As Creator, God is different from all of His creation. God calls us to be different too.** He wants us to be like Him, including in the way we love one another. Before, we cared only about ourselves. We fought and complained. But **God is loving, so He wants us to love one another** instead. Loving one another isn’t always easy, but it is good.

Peter wrote, “Our life on earth will not last forever. It is like the grass and flowers that fade away.”

Long ago, the Israelites were waiting for God to keep His good promise to send a Rescuer to save people from their sins. Today, we remember that **God kept His good promise by sending Jesus. We can be holy because of our hope in Jesus.**

Christ Connection: No one is like God. God is holy, good, and loving. Jesus shows us what God is like and gives us hope. God can make us more like Jesus. We can trust Him and live joyfully for Him. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Call for active listening: Challenge kids to count how many times they hear the word *holy*.

Use pauses: As you tell the Bible story, pause between paragraphs or following dialogue to draw kids’ attention.

Small Group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ In the letter Peter wrote, he reminded Christians of God’s instructions to be holy. The word holy means ‘set apart.’ It means being different. Several times in the Old Testament, God said, ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’ [See Lev. 11:44-45.] Have you ever thought about what it means to be holy? Can people really be holy like God?

When we trust in Jesus, we are given a new life. With Jesus as Lord of our lives, we should be different because of our relationship with Him. One way we can be different is in how we love others.

Open your Bible to 1 Peter 1. [Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 Peter 1:22-23.] Peter said that we should show sincere love for one another constantly. Why? Because we have been born again.

When we obey God, trust in His Word, and love others, they will see the difference in us. What was the difference people saw in Jesus’ life? How was Jesus’ life so different? [Allow kids to answer.]

Jesus is the perfect example of holiness. He loved His Father perfectly and loved others perfectly. While we will never be perfect like Jesus in this life, we can follow His example and hope in Him. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ No one is like God. God is holy, good, and loving. Jesus shows us what God is like and gives us hope. God can make us more like Jesus. We can trust Him and live joyfully for Him. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What does it mean to be holy? ”

Guide kids to discuss the meaning of holiness. Holiness means to be set apart, to be different. Because God is holy, we too should live holy lives.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 1:16.)

| **SAY** “ How can we be set apart? How can we be different from the world? ”

Lead kids to discuss how we are made pure through Jesus. When we repent and believe in Jesus, God sees us as righteous and pure. Because of this, our attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions should be different than the world around us.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 1:22.)

| **SAY** “ How can the way we live point others to Jesus? ”

Guide kids to discuss how it is obvious when something is different. If your mom’s car is gray, but she comes home and it is green, you will clearly notice the difference. When others see the difference in us, we will have the opportunity to share why we are different and how they can be too.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 3:10.)