

**LIVING HOLY LIVES**  
**1 Peter 1:13-25**

**LESSON PREP**

At the heart of this week is the reality of God's calling for every Christian which requires a different lifestyle from the rest of the world. For those in your group who have a relationship with God, challenge them to examine their lives for consistency. For those in your small group who are unbelievers, talk about how our call to be holy like God is impossible apart from the saving work of Jesus, who paid the price for our sins and enables us to be made holy before God (see 1 Peter 1:19-21).

**SAMPLE LG TEXT**  
**MESSAGE QUESTIONS**

How can we show that we are living for something different? Let's discuss at small group tonight.

How can you be holy like God is holy? Is it even possible? Share your thoughts at small group tonight.

**SCRIPTURE**  
**MEMORIZATION**

1 Peter 1:14-16

**1ON1 FOLLOWUP**

Take this week to discuss holiness and do an evaluation of lifestyle behaviors and holiness. Discuss the issue of compromise and God's standard of holiness. Also discuss the idea of holiness is reflecting what God has done inward to an outside world rather than an outward attempt to gain inward change.

**INTRODUCTION**

- Do you find it easy to truly be an individual, to live according to solid ideals without conforming to the culture around you? Why or why not?
- In what ways can Christians live differently from the surrounding culture?
- How can being different or living differently from other people affect the way other people treat you?

**Read 1 Peter 1:13-25 together as a group.**

**1. You can reflect God's holiness.**

- Give me some specific examples of how your life as a Christian can reflect the character traits of God.
- Why is it important for our lives to reflect God's character traits?
- When you read passages in the Bible or hear Christians talking about being holy, what does that mean to you?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *The word holy comes from the Greek word that means "separated." In this case, it means to be separated from sin, and therefore set apart to the Lord and for his purposes. God calls us to be holy as his people, and God has given us Scripture to instruct us as well as the Holy Spirit to daily guide us and empower us to live it out. We have the opportunity to reflect God's holiness to the world around us so others can see what God is like by looking at our lives.*

**2. You can live differently from the world.**

- If we desire to live differently from the world, why is it important to practice self-control or to be sober-minded, as Peter writes in verse 13?
- In verse 14, Peter gives a strong warning against returning to old ways of living. How might this happen in someone's life? [NOTE: Consider talking about any past experience where you returned to "old ways of living" after coming to faith in Christ. Exercise the appropriate level of vulnerability as you share what it was like, how you got to that place, and how it affected you.]
- What do verses 15-17 reveal about who God is?
- In what ways are you, as a Christian, a foreigner, alien, or stranger in this world?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *When we embrace our identity in Christ as being different from the world, it helps us to differentiate our decisions and lifestyles from the way our culture lives. It also means people may see us and treat us differently than they treat others. We are called to fear God—and when the Bible talks about fearing God, it's talking about recognizing how awesome and amazing God truly is.*

**3. You can treat one another differently.**

- Look at verse 22. Why should Christians show sincere love to one another?
- What is the difference between sincere love, and superficial or shallow love? How is biblical love different from how our culture defines love?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Because we have been cleansed from our sins and are now children in God's family, we ought to love each other sincerely as brothers and sisters in Christ. The Bible calls us to love each other deeply from our hearts. Peter reminds us that our lives on this earth are temporary and the ways of the world are fleeting, so we should all the more focus on what truly matters and invest in loving other people.*

**APPLICATION**

How closely does your life reflect God's holiness to the world around you? What changes in your life would allow you to reflect God even more?