



# CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

## Los Angeles

Dgroup Discussion Guide  
September 14, 2014

### Holy God

Word:

1 JOHN 1

***<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.***

We are in the Knowing God series. In the previous week, we focused on God being on Almighty. This is one of God's character we can really draw strength from. Our challenge is to respond properly to God so that He will be on our side and not against us. How do we respond properly?

1. Surrender in Humility
2. Sunod at hintay ka na lang (Obey and wait on Him)
3. Sandal ka lang sa Kanya (Lean on Him)

This time we will look at another of God's characteristics -- His Holiness.

What is holiness?

In Hebrew "Qadash" or in Greek "Haigos" which means to consecrate, to sanctify, to prepare, to dedicate, to be hallowed, be holy, be sanctified, be separate, to be set apart.

The holiness of God is constant and perfect. When He says "I am, I am" this tells us that He will never change. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Only God is holy. We can never claim holiness. Holiness in essence means to be set apart. to be in a league of its own. Isaiah says in 40:12-15 ***Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales? <sup>13</sup>Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? <sup>14</sup>With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding? <sup>15</sup>Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. <sup>16</sup>Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. <sup>17</sup>All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless. <sup>18</sup>To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?*** This tells us that God has been set apart just for who He is and no one can compare to Him. We cannot compare Him to us because He is lofty, exalted. . . set apart.

Moses is Exodus 3 when the Lord appeared to him said ***"I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."*** <sup>4</sup> ***When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*** <sup>5</sup> ***Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."*** The bush continued burning but it was not consumed. This is God's Almighty power in action. Sometimes God does things like this to call our attention, and like Moses when we take notice and look then God will then speak to us. Not only that He will call us by name, in the same way He called Moses. God then told Moses to take off his sandals because he was standing in holy ground.

There was nothing special about the place where Moses stood but it was rendered holy because God's presence was there. Similarly when we have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, then the Holy Spirit dwells in us. . . so therefore our bodies become a holy temple. By God's word and by position, we are rendered holy -- but the question is -- do we live our lives as though we are holy?

God introduces Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:6 ***He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*** Many times during our first encounter with God or anything spiritual, like Moses we end up hiding our face. Our first reaction is fear. . . and we hide our face. Is it out of fear? Out of shame? Maybe but Exodus 33:20 warns us that *we cannot see God's face because no man can see Him and live.* The glory of the Lord is so bright that no one can gaze at God and live, His holiness will consume us, because He is holy and we are not.

God introduced Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob because He had given His promise to them. When God makes a promise He is faithful to bring it to completion. He has not made a promise that He has not kept. So God tells Moses <sup>6</sup>***"Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.' Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."*** (Exodus 6:6-7) Moses made all sorts of excuses but still God tells Moses to go. . . because when God chooses you and calls you, He will also equip you.

How serious is God about His holiness?

God is definitely serious about His holiness. It is close to His heart.

Moses. He was raised in an Egyptian household and then he ran away to live in the desert for 40 years to unlearn all the things he has learned. When the right time came, God spoke to Moses and gave him the task of liberating the Israelites from Egypt. Moses was able to do this but on the road to the promised land, the Israelites grumbled and complained. . . there was no water, they had only mana to eat. . . much like us. And God does not like a grumbling and complaining heart.

In Numbers 20, God instructed Moses to assemble the Israelites and he told Moses to speak to the rock so that water would come forth. But Moses did not obey. Instead of speaking to the rock as God told him to do so, he struck the rock with his rod twice. He also addressed the congregation saying ***Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?*** It was God who was supplying the water but Moses failed to recognize that. Later God speaks to Moses and Aaron saying ***"because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."*** Moses was not allowed to enter the promise land because He did not regard God as holy in front of the people. This was a consequence of his disobedience.

Uzzah. During the time of Moses and ark was constructed to represent the presence of God. And because this was a symbol of God's presence no one was allowed to touch the ark of the covenant. The ark however had rings in which rods were slipped through to carry the ark. Now during a time that they carried the ark, traveling in rough terrain the ark lost balance. 2 Samuel 6:6-7 says <sup>6</sup>***But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it.*** <sup>7</sup>***And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.*** Although Uzzah's intentions were good, to prevent the ark from falling. . . still he forgot to give reverence to God's holiness.

Isaiah. God gave Isaiah a vision in chapter 6. *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.* <sup>2</sup> *Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.* <sup>3</sup> *And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.* <sup>4</sup> *At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.* <sup>5</sup> *"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.* <sup>6</sup> *Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.* <sup>7</sup> *With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.* <sup>8</sup> *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

God gave Isaiah a vision in which he saw the holiness of God, and it was while he was witnessing this that Isaiah realized that he is truly unworthy to face a holy God. Then one of the Seraphims came and touched a live coal to his lips and Isaiah confessed his sin. It was only after he confessed his sin that he was able to hear God's voice.

Isaiah was given several insights during this vision:

1. Revelation. (v 3-4) He encountered the holiness of God and then understood who he is compared to the holiness of God. We can compare ourselves with other Christians but we can never compare ourselves to our holy God. When we understand this then we realize that only God is holy and we are not then we come to a point of repentance.
2. Repentance. (v 5) The revelation of who God is and who we are in the light of who God is should bring us to a point of repentance that we should turn away from our evil ways and follow our holy God. The bible tells us in 1 Samuel 2:2 ***There is no one holy like the Lord, Indeed, there is no one besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.*** Paul also writes in Romans 3:10 ***as it is written, there is none righteous, not even one.*** That is why we cannot present our acts of good deeds as our claim to holiness.  
1 John 1:9-10 gives us consolation when he wrote ***if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.***
3. Responsibility. We have a responsibility to live a holy life when we are at a point of repentance. When we have accepted Jesus Christ, then it is our responsibility to live out a holy life.

We are called to be set apart. To be consecrated. To be dedicated to a holy God. Is our life a reflection of God's holiness? If we have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we have to make a choice. . . to live a life that pleases God, a life worthy to be offered to a holy God . . . or a life that conforms to this world.

## Works: Journaling task

1. Revelation. How was God described in Isaiah 6:1-3. What does holy mean?
2. Repentance. What are the things that are in our heart, the things that we are doing that brings us farther away from our holy God.
3. Responsibility. "The secret to holiness is not willpower but Jesus." How would you describe a holy life lived by a Christian? What are the things I need to do in my life, the things I have to change in order to live a life by someone set apart, dedicated to a holy God.