

AMPLIFY

GROWING A
FAITH THAT LASTS

AMPLIFY: HOLINESS
LESSON 1: GOD = HOLY

What we want students to learn: That your students would understand exactly what holiness is, why God alone is holy, and why it's so important.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To consider what God's holiness means in their everyday lives.

Scripture Focus: Leviticus 11:45, Exodus 3:1-6, Exodus 15:11, Jeremiah 9:23-24

Overview: There are a few of those familiar "church" words that we feel like we know, or have an intuitive understanding of. Holiness is one of them. We tend to know what we mean when we say, "God is holy." But do we really? Better yet, do our students? The purpose of this lesson is to look at a sampling of Old Testament verses that will define what God's holiness is, and why it's such an important concept to our relationship with Him.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **Amplify** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **Holiness** lesson 1 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 1 and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the **Bible Background** to help summarize the context.

THE DETAILS

Exodus

- **Author:** While there's no specific author named within the text, Moses is the accepted author for Exodus, with some editing and additions done after his death (such as the account of his death!).
- **Timeframe:** The dating of the Book of Exodus is a point of debate. The issue is that no one knows for sure when the Exodus occurred, whether it was in the mid-1400s BC or a later date around the mid-1200s BC. The writing would have occurred around those general dates.

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- **Purpose:** Exodus means “a going out” or a “departure.” Exodus was written to be a record of God’s great rescue of His people from slavery in Egypt, and His commands to His people guiding them to live for His purposes in the midst of a new land.

Leviticus

- **Author:** While there’s no specific author named in the text, Moses is the accepted author for Leviticus, with some editing and additions done after his death (such as the account of his death).
- **Timeframe:** The dating of the book of Leviticus is thought to be around the fifteenth or thirteenth century BC, depending on when one dates the Hebrew exodus out of Egypt.
- **Purpose:** The title “Leviticus” simply means “things concerning the Levite,” but the book is not just for those concerned with priestly duties. It is considered to be a continuation of Exodus, and therefore a continuation of the story of the Hebrew people and their relationship with God.

Jeremiah

- **Author:** Though there has been some disagreement over the years, there is no compelling reason to doubt that the Prophet Jeremiah is the author or indeed the author of the book that shares his name. He was accompanied by his scribe, Baruch.
- **Timeframe:** Best estimates have the book completed sometime around 550 BC.
- **Purpose:** Jeremiah and Baruch wrote the book to capture the turmoil that faced them and to cast a vision for the hopeful future God had in store for Israel.

THE MAIN POINT

These passages work together to show us that throughout the Old and New Testaments, the Holy Spirit has always been empowering God’s people to be about His work. The passages in Exodus, Numbers, and Ezekiel come together to show us that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit worked through specific people, at specific times, to give them the power to be a part of His work.

In Joel and Acts, we see that there would come a time when the Holy Spirit would work through all people instead of just specific people. This transformation means that being a part of God’s work is not just for some people, but for all people who have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. All Believers have been given specific giftings by and through the Spirit so that they can be a part of serving the Church and growing God’s Kingdom.

LESSON PLAN

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

THE LEAD IN

- **Goal:** The idea is for students to start the lesson by understanding what holiness means.
- **Set-Up:** You’ll need something to make a list on, such as a dry-erase board for a larger group, or a piece of

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scrap paper for a smaller group.

FIRST, explain to students that you're going to engage them in an interactive discussion. Explain that to begin, you'll need their assistance. Ask for volunteers to help you identify a few categories to use as the framework for your discussion. These can be any categories they choose; the sky's the limit! The categories can be pro football teams, food that's red, sports cars, awful pop stars, and so on. Allow students to come up with three to five categories.

THEN, once the categories have been created, explain to students that you're going to build a little list in each category. For each category, have students attempt to construct a list of the three best for that category. For instance, if the category were "awful pop-stars," students would take turns listing who they think are the worst three pop-stars. Take turns allowing students to agree or disagree, to add or subtract from the list, or to reorder the list.

NEXT, when you've played for long enough, lead students in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **For most of these categories, it was virtually impossible to truly come up with a number one. Why?**
 - Answers will vary but may include: There isn't any objective standard, it's mostly a matter of opinion, there isn't that much difference between the things on the list, and so on.
- **Would it have been easier if one of our categories were something like, "Comic book characters who have the last name Wayne and who dress in black and don't have any true superpowers and drive around Gotham City in really awesome cars"? Why would it have been easier?**
 - Answer: Because there is only one person in the category. Other than Batman, no one fits the description.

FINALLY, explain that this lesson is the first in a three-lesson look at holiness. Explain that holiness is one of those words we kind of think we know what it means. But when we get down to it, we may find we have a hard time defining it. Encourage students that if they tend to associate the holiness with purity, they'd be correct. But explain that there's another very prominent meaning for holiness, as it pertains to God, that's much more in line with your Batman example from a moment ago. Say something like:

- **In the example I just gave you, Batman was in a category all of his own. There were no other super heroes that fit the description. He was number one because there was no number two. This little example helps us understand the concept of God's holiness. What we're about to learn is that when we say God is holy, we mean that He's at the top of a category all by Himself. To be holy means to be set-apart. To be supremely different. To be "other." God is all of these things. Let's take a closer look and see exactly what this means.**

THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** The idea is for students to understand exactly what holiness is, and why God alone is holy.
- **Set Up:** While it's not essential, you might benefit from a dry-erase board or similar means of displaying concepts. If you've prepared a slideshow, make sure you have arranged the means to display it.

FIRST, explain to students that you're going to be looking at a few places in Scripture to discover exactly what the Bible says about this idea of holiness and that you'll begin to flesh out what this means for your relationship with God.

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Ask if anyone can tell you who wrote Leviticus and whether or not anyone knows the basic gist of it. Help paint a picture of the context for Leviticus using the details from the Bible Background. Explain that Leviticus is mostly about God giving His people rules to live by. Say something like:

- **Admittedly, Leviticus is kind of a tricky book for modern readers. We're so far removed from the cultural context of the day, that we can't understand all the ceremonial customs and rules for cleanliness, and so on. But we don't have to grasp why God gave His people laws and rules to live by.**

THEN, read Leviticus 11:45. Explain to students that this verse will serve as an introductory verse for this lesson. Say something like:

- **God identified Himself as holy. As we mentioned, we think of holy as pure. And that's definitely true. God is pure. He is perfectly good. But in this case, God is identifying Himself as set-apart. Here, and all throughout the Bible, God is essentially saying, "I am holy. I am different. I am set-apart." A great way to think of this is simply that God is "other." Let's see a couple of places where this is fleshed out.**

NEXT, instruct students to find Exodus 3 in their Bibles. While they're finding it, provide the context to this passage. Explain that you're picking up the story of Moses when Moses is a grown man after he has fled the Pharaoh's palace and before he has been chosen to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. (If you choose, ask if students can fill in the back-story of Moses' life.) Explain that you're about to see Moses have an amazing encounter.

Read or have a student read Exodus 3:1-6. When you've read the passage, lead students in a brief discussion asking questions similar to the following:

- **Let's start with the idea of this burning bush. In what way did this signify something "different," or "other" might be happening?**
 - Answer: The obvious answer is that the bush didn't burn even though it was on fire. But the deeper answer is that the expected order of things, or the expected outcome, had been subverted. The "norm" wasn't the "norm."
- **So, what was the cause of this unexpected and unique occurrence? What did Moses discover was the explanation?**
 - Answer: God had entered the mix! Suddenly the ordinary was anything but! (In case it comes up, when we read "the angel of the Lord" in the Old Testament, it is understood to be more than merely an angel and is almost universally understood to be God Himself.)
- **God calls Moses, and when Moses starts to come closer, God says something. What does He say?**
 - Answer: He instructs Moses to take off his sandals because the ground is holy.
- **Here's something to think about: Did the ground change in its nature? Did it go through a metamorphosis of any sort?**
 - Answer: No.
- **So why was the ground suddenly holy?**
 - Answer: Because of God's presence.
- **If we're focusing on the definition of holy as the idea of being "different," "other," and "set-apart," how does this scene build on this concept? How do we see God demonstrating His holiness?**
 - Answer: God is so much higher, so much bigger, so much more "other," than Moses, an ordinary man, couldn't conduct himself in an ordinary fashion in God's presence. He had to show an unparalleled

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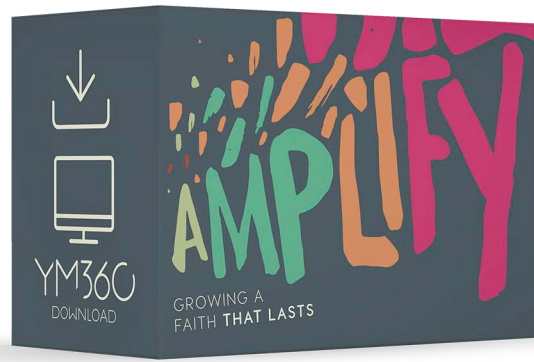
GROWING A
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We hope you have enjoyed this sample of this **Amplify: Growing a Faith That Lasts** study. Each **Amplify** lesson has a Leader Guide in PDF and DOC format that you can adjust to fit the needs of your group.

Do you have questions about this study? We're here to help! Contact our world-class Customer Care team at (888) 969-6360, email us at customercare@ym360.com, or Live Chat us through our website.



THE HOLY SPIRIT
WORSHIP
GOD'S WORD
OBEDIENCE
GOD'S MERCY
EVANGELISM
GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY
SUFFERING
GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
HOLINESS
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
SERVICE
HUMILITY
KNOWING GOD
PRAYER
STEWARDSHIP
THE UNCHANGING GOD



This study is one of the 3-lesson studies in the Amplify curriculum.

Amplify is a 52-lesson youth ministry Bible study curriculum that will help your students lay the foundation of a lasting relationship with God through a study of the core concepts of their faith.

Included in each Amplify 3-lesson study:

- 3 Bible study lessons
- Bible background and Teacher Prep Videos
- Weekly student devotions
- Weekly parent pages
- Weekly social media content
- Presentation graphics
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