



Discussion Guide

Holier than thou

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Chapter 1

1. When you think of God's holiness, what comes to mind?
2. Why is it important to understand that God's holiness is not a part or piece of Him, but holiness is who He is, through and through?
3. How do you respond to the idea that "judgment is a good (holy) thing"? Explain your answer.
4. Using Isaiah 6, describe God's holiness.

Chapter 2

1. Why does being in God's presence move Isaiah and Peter first to confession, not praise? What is your first response when you encounter God's holiness?
2. In your own words, describe Jackie's idea that we image Satan when we are motivated to be like God—not in terms of righteousness but of rights.
3. What do you learn about God's moral perfection by looking at the Son who reveals Him?
4. Give examples from Jesus' temptation in the wilderness to describe what holiness in action looks like. How do these examples apply to your daily life?

Chapter 3

1. In your own words, describe God's transcendence. How does meditating on this aspect of God affect you?
2. What does the burning bush reveal about God's holiness and transcendence?
3. How have you treated God as "ordinary"? When have you related to God through only one attribute with which you are familiar (for example, love)?
4. Why is it important that God never changes? When have you been tempted to believe that God has changed or is ever-changing?

Chapter 4

1. What “little gods” have you placed your faith in? What expectations do you have of these created things that can only be fulfilled by God?
2. With regard to your salvation, why is important to hope in God alone—not a created being?
3. Jackie writes on page 97: “Each idol, a cistern, is able to provide some semblance of life, as if it were godlike in its ability to offer us some measure of good. A little water here, a little water there. This is most likely the reason we think our idols have been good to us. The relationship does provide some comfort. The direct deposit does give some sense of security.”
4. How have the idols in your life given you “some semblance of life”? When have those things been exposed as lies? How have your idols failed you?
5. Jackie describes the social media experience as a form of idolatry on page 99. How do you respond to this? What role does social media play in your life?

Chapter 5

1. How do you respond to the statement below from Jackie on page 107? How do you see this at work in the world today? Give examples. “Sin deludes folks into thinking that their feelings and creaturely thoughts hold weight in our moral universe as if God is not the ultimate authority on goodness.”
2. Jackie writes that “one form of God’s judgment is to simply give us over to what we want” on page 113. How do you respond to this? Support your answer with specific examples.
3. Re-read the story of Uzzah and the Ark of the Covenant in 2 Samuel 6:1-15. What is Uzzah’s sin and what is God’s response? How will you apply this portion of Scripture to your relationship with God?
4. How is the cross of Christ a demonstration of both God’s love and God’s justice?

Chapter 6

1. What is your initial response to Scripture passages that command you to “be holy” (see 1 Peter 1:15-16 and Hebrews 12:14, for example)? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in your obedience to be holy?
2. Describe what it means to be born again. What are the primary differences between one who is dead and one who is born again? Which one is true of you?
3. In your own words, define “holy vision.”
4. Discuss the various glories of the Lord that we are beholding (Jackie names love, peace and kindness). How do these attributes of God transform you (see 2 Corinthians 3:16-18) into holiness? What other glories of the Lord do you behold?

Chapter 7

1. How is beholding the Lord active, not passive? Give a few examples to support your answer.
2. Why does believing that Jesus is the bread of life—that God alone will satisfy your deepest hunger and quench your greatest thirst—make you holy?
3. Jackie writes, “Desiring God above all things is the soil from which holiness is grown” on page 163. How do you respond to this statement? How does it apply to your life?
4. How does being set apart from the world affect what you behold and therefore your holiness?