



More Holiness Give Me 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Community Reflection is part three of Vineyard Boise's "Weekly Discipleship Track." Community Reflection is intended to point you towards the unique interaction that happens in the face to face setting of small group life. You've processed the truth on your own in the weekly devotions and have heard the truth presented in Sunday's teaching. Now you have the opportunity to interact with other believers about the implications and applications of that truth. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another," says the proverb. That's exactly what takes place in the small group setting. Perspectives are clarified, truths explored, convictions sharpened (or softened, as the case may be), life is built. There are three segments in each Community Reflection: **Prepare**, **Process**, and **Participate**.



PREPARE

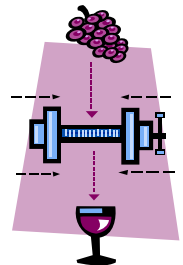
(For leaders/co-leaders prior to group meeting)

1. Work through "This Week's Walk." Do the devotions, noting any key insights you want to share with your group or questions you would like to ask.
2. The basic meaning of "holy" is "set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his" and in a moral sense it means to be "pure, sinless, upright." Using a concordance or Bible dictionary you might consider doing a word study of holy and holiness. Find and study other key Bible passages dealing with holiness.
3. Pray daily over your upcoming meeting and for each person in your group.

PROCESS

(For leaders/co-leaders during group meeting)

1. Ask your group how they did with their devotions this past week. What stood out as they worked through them? What questions or issues were raised?
2. Read through **1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**, then choose one of the following tracks as a point of focus for the group:



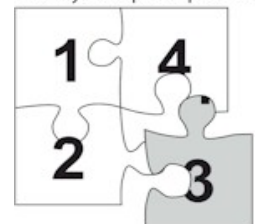
Track One *Be holy for I AM holy*

Read **Leviticus 19:1-18** and **1 Peter 1:13-25** and lead your group into a discussion of the nature of practical holiness.

Discussion starters:

- What's the first thought that comes to mind when you hear the word "holy"?
- How would you define "holiness" in the light of Leviticus 19:1-18? How do these laws help define what it means to be holy?

Weekly Discipleship Track



1. Life reflection – need for change, hunger for God
2. Presentation of truth – teaching and studying
3. Processing the truth – reflection and debrief in community
4. Life change – response to truth, new habits and actions

Community Reflection

- How can we be empowered to live out the laws of this chapter today? What specific keys to holiness does Peter share? How can we be holy as God is holy?
- Where are you in your pursuit of holiness? How can the group help?

Track Two *A life permeated with holiness*

Focus on the three practical life areas Paul address in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 – sexual morality, love in relationships, and practical work ethic/finances.

Discussion starters:

- What's the first thought that comes to mind when you hear the word "holy"?
- How does holiness impact sexual purity? How can we learn to possess our own bodies in a way that is holy and honorable, and "not in the passion of lust as the gentiles"? Considering the pervasive nature of sexual sin even among believers, how, in practical terms, can we really be holy when it comes to our sexual lives?
- What does this passage say to someone who has already made sexual mistakes?
- How's your "love life" with the church? How freely is love flowing to you and from you to others? What barricades need to be removed? How can the group help?
- What is your ambition in life and how does this compare with the ambition Paul challenges us with in 4:11-12?
- Where are you in your pursuit of holiness?



PARTICIPATE (As a group during or after your meeting)

Holiness is not so much a result of our hard work and sweat as it is a fruit of fellowship with the heart of God. Challenge your group members to savor that fellowship by practicing the discipline of silence and quiet reflection for 30 minutes to an hour sometime during the next seven days. If it fits in with the culture of your group, you might consider even doing this together as a group. Sit quietly together, focusing on the Lord, and at the conclusion of the time of silence share what you experienced.