



### **Tips & Suggestions**

+ Show this video from The Bible Project:

“Animated Explanation of God’s Holiness”

(Direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9vn5UvsHvM>)

Duration: 6 mins

### **Big idea: W(holy) Incarnational**

#### **Leader note: have a table prepared with:**

- a small bowl of vegetable oil
- a large glass of water
- a small amount of dish soap
- a tall, empty glass
- A video screen/projector/tv to show “Animated Explanation of God’s Holiness”
- Have on screen the definition of the word “incarnational”

#### **Say something like:**

Welcome everyone! Our theme for our next four meetings is “grow in holiness”, and the best way to begin that is to focus on God’s holiness. As we start today, let’s watch this video together (*Animated Explanation of God’s holiness*): duration - 6 minutes.

I’m going to present to you two pictures of God, two images of God that appears to exhibit two very different “Gods.”

The first is in the book of Exodus or throughout portions of the Old Testament. This image of God is one of power, cloud and fire. This picture of God seems very “other” to our own daily experience. When we think of God as holy, we tend to think of these sort of pictures in our minds: set apart, powerful, perfect, spotless, no trace of sin or imperfection. To use the metaphor as used in the video, like the sun. And this is true. God possesses all of these qualities and much more.

Based on Scripture and on what we've learned thus far in Confirmation Continued, we know that in light of God's perfection, all people are sinners. Try as we might to be righteous, we can't do it on our own ability. It's only by God's grace and through the power of God's Holy Spirit that we can know God and live for Christ every day.

You could say that people are like this large glass of water and God as holy, set apart, and perfect is the oil. Once you combine the two ([pour the water and oil into the empty glass](#)), you see that the two do not mix. Try as we might, [stir as we might](#), the holiness of God cannot mix or be one with the sinful nature of humanity. The qualities of the two liquids are somewhat similar, and yet completely different. The holiness of God always rises to the top.

The second picture of God is represented in Jesus: a powerful prophet, healer, priest, teacher and king. Yet Christ is also the ultimate servant (Isaiah 53, Phil. 2:5-8). Does anyone know what the word "incarnation" means? [Take answers and use a definition if necessary.](#)

God, who is holy, is born of a virgin and enters our world as a human being. Jesus is perfectly and equally God and man, all without sin. Jesus takes the sin of the world onto Himself and opens the door for all people to know God and God's holiness.

The good news of the gospel is that the holiness of God can indwell each believer, erasing the divide between sinful humanity and the holiness of God. Our bodies are made to be temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19) and people are intended to be the temple God desires to indwell (1 Peter 2:5). In Leviticus, God calls the Israelites to be holy as God is holy (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7 NRSV) and Jesus echoed this when he called his followers to be "perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48 NRSV).

It is only by grace that this work is possible and only by God's grace that 1) the divide between holiness and sin can be breached and 2) that also the

holiness of God can be personally known by individual people. Let's say that this dish soap represents God's grace. [Watch what happens when I pour the soap in with the oil and water and stir/mix it together.](#)

We don't transfer our sinfulness to God. God transfers His holiness to us.

God is not only holy, but God is w(holy) incarnational.

**Suggested closing prayer:** Eternal God, thank you for your holiness.

Thank you for sending Jesus as the perfect embodiment of your holiness, your light and life that touches, heals and transforms. Mold and shape our lives completely so that we can live as temples of your Holy Spirit and help us continue to see the joy and peace that comes when you live within each of us. Guide our conversations in our groups that our faith might be built up, our vision for you that much clearer, and our burdens we may bring into this place, may they be lighter. Amen.

[Break into Confirmation Continued groups](#)