

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“Holiness as Identity” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Member Gathering:** our bi-annual member gathering will be held this Sunday, October 25th from 4:00pm-5:30pm. Be sure to register in the email sent out on Monday. **If you are interested in membership, our next new member class will be held Sunday, November 15.** More details to come.
2. **Worship and Prayer** is the following Wednesday, September 28.

DISCUSSION:

1. Icebreaker: see the Leader Resource page (<https://www.churchatbergen.org/group-leader-resources>) and pick an icebreaker from the link called: “75 Icebreaker Questions for Small Groups.”
2. Was there anything that really stood out to you in this past week’s sermon? What was it? Why did that particular aspect impress itself upon you?
3. When you hear the word “holiness,” what are all the words and associations that come to mind? After that, have someone read Isaiah 6:1-7 and ask the group how this affects or shapes the way we view holiness.
4. This week’s sermon was called “Holiness as Identity.” Can you identify in the whole passage (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8) all the parts that link holiness to your identity?
5. Read verse 1. What is it about the way God calls us to holiness “in the Lord Jesus” that is so freeing?
6. Read verse 2. Paul gives instructions to us in this verse regarding holiness and purity, why might some people feel like they are being attacked by being told what to do, especially in regard to holiness and purity?
7. Read verses 3-5. It was said in the sermon that before holiness can be done holiness needs to be our *identity*. How might this change the way we think about sexual temptation?
8. Many Christians feel like they are unable to be used by God because of sexual sin. What is it about sexual temptation and sin that can damage a person’s ability to feel “useful” to God? In what way would you personally be helped by the church in regard to living freely after having given into sexual temptation?
9. Read verse 6-8. These verses close with a call to holiness. What are some practical ways in your life that can help you grow in personal holiness?
10. Read the following quote from the sermon twice slowly and then take some time to close in prayer for more holiness in our lives and in the church, “Jesus did not leave even 1% of your guilt and condemnation for sexual. He took all of it away on the cross.”