

## Called Unto Holiness

Focus Scripture(s):  
Romans 8:1-7

### Connecting to Life

#### Option 1

Display this list of doctrinal words and ask for the group's reaction to each one. Have them give a "thumbs up" if the term means something to them. Have them give a "thumbs down" if they don't understand the term.

- Holiness
- Sanctification
- Entire sanctification
- Perfect love
- Wesleyan-Holiness
- Wesleyan-Arminian
- Prevenient grace
- Covenant

#### Option 2

Invite your group to respond to the following:

- Describe the characteristics of a person you would consider "holy."
- Without revealing a name, who is/was the most holy person you know?  
Why did he or she seem holy to you?
- What is the purpose of life?
- What is the purpose of Christian life?
- How are the two previous answers different? the same?

*Transition:* Often theological terms can be difficult to understand. However, they simply attempt to explain the biblical concept of holiness. Let's look at how Scripture reveals it.

### Option 1

Have someone read Romans 8:1-17 aloud to the participants. Invite them to follow along in their own Bibles, if they have them. Then ask everyone to discuss the following:

- Briefly summarize in your own words how the apostle Paul relates the gospel of Jesus in verses 1-4.
- Compare the differences between having one's mind "on the things of the flesh" versus "on the things of the Spirit" (vv. 5-8).
- In verses 9-17, who does the apostle address?
- What insight into a life of holiness do these verses reveal?

### Option 2

Invite the group members to define the following terms. Help them with the ones they do not know. (Suggested answers or where to find them are in parentheses.)

- Prevenient grace (See session 2 of the student book.)
- Salvation (Salvation is the complete process by which God redeems creation. The Bible tells the many ways God acted to bring salvation to this world.)
- Justification (The act of God by which God makes people right with him. Considered, the "first work of grace," also called "initial sanctification.")
- Sanctification (See session 2, especially noting the listing under the definition of "entire sanctification" for other terms meaning the same thing.)
- Covenant (See session 2.)

*Transition:* Knowing the proper terms is important for communicating the truth of sanctification. More important is the experience of living a holy life.

**Option 1**

The student book opens with the first verse and chorus of “Holiness unto the Lord” (which can be found in *Sing to the Lord*, No. 503). Invite the group to look closely at the words, pointing out the images used and how well they describe a sanctified life.

**Option 2**

Close today’s session by asking several volunteers to respond to the following:

- Do you personally believe it is possible to be a sanctified Christian? Why, or why not?
- Have you ever felt God’s tug on your heart to live a more committed Christian life? What was that like?
- Who is willing to share a personal testimony of one aspect of living a sanctified life?