

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Holified – A Study in Leviticus, Part 9

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Do you have the gift of administration?** Are you available during normal business hours? Are you interested in volunteering to help the Small Group Staff with administrative duties? If so, contact Carolyn York at carolyny@therocksandiego.org or 619.226.7625 x247.
- For all other Rock Announcements please go to <http://www.therocksandiego.org/announcements/> or see the Rock Event Calendar at <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

Getting Our Minds Ready

1. This week Pastor Miles talked about God's intention for His people to stop and rest in His presence and in the fact that He is faithful. When you think of stopping and resting in God's presence, what words come to mind (e.g., bask, listen, relinquish)?
2. We all seem to have different gut responses to the idea of stopping and resting. What does it *feel* like for you when you think about stopping and retreating into God's presence?

Connecting Our Learning to Holiness

3. Think a little about the following verses with these questions in mind—how is holiness and resting connected? How does resting in God's presence make us holy and set us apart for a divine purpose?
 - **Psalm 23:1-4** - How are we prepared for a divine purpose in the presence of the Shepherd? What are some of the things that happen to us in the restful presence of the Shepherd?
 - **Hebrews 10:19-23** - When we enter God's presence (i.e., the most holy, V. 19), what are we naturally compelled to do? Why do you think that's true?
 - **Psalm 37:5-7** - How do others end up seeing you when you are "still" before God (V. 6)? Why do you think it works that way? Why do you think being still before God shapes the view others have of you?
 - **Isaiah 40:12-31** - This passage is a little long but it will be worth it if you spend a little time with it. When you stop, rest, and reflect on this view of God how does your perspective change regarding His ability to achieve His plan? What does it do to your confidence in Him? How does it change your desire to align yourself with His divine purposes?

4. One of Satan's strategies to separate us from God is to plant doubt in our minds about what God has actually said (Genesis 3:16; Luke 4). What are some of the things you can do to center your mind in God's presence, and in so doing, thwart the strategy of Satan?
- **Colossians 3:1-4** - How do we set our minds on "the things above?" What would it look like in our lives if we did that—how would we behave?
 - **Psalm 119:36-37**-
 - **I John 15:15-17** - What are some real life examples of the three things mentioned in verse 16?

Consider the Example of Jesus

The law of Leviticus points us to Jesus and He made it clear that He desires us to take time to practice the presence of God.

5. What do we learn about resting in God's presence from his *example*?
- Matthew 4:1-11
 - Matthew 26:36 - What was Jesus facing? What did he do in response to that?
 - Luke 2:41-52
 - Luke 5:15-16
 - Luke 6:12-13
6. What do we learn about resting in God's presence from His *teaching*?
- Luke 8:4-8, 14
 - Luke 10:38-42
 - Luke 12:22-34
 - Luke 21:34-36

Putting it into Practice

Think about your own life for a moment. Think about who you are, the culture in which we live, your temperament, schedule, and personal environment (i.e., home, work and/or school). What component of your life might get in the way of stopping and resting in the presence of God?

In the New Testament, Jesus extends the concept of practicing the presence of God by teaching us that there are two ways to do this:

1. We are to **abide** in Him (John 5:1-8, and Colossians 3:1-4)
2. We are to habitually set Him first by taking time out everyday to be with Him. (Luke 6:12)

Think about your daily routine and what you have on your plate this week. How can you continually abide in God's presence and deliberately set aside time to do so?