



Honest to God

A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

Session 4 – Holy Is Your Name

Remember getting your first driver's license? It's a big day, but the car exam can be tense. One teenager almost had a perfect score on his test. "You did fine, only one mistake," the examiner said as he got out of the car. The boy sighed in relief, "I'm glad I don't have to drive that careful all the time!" That's how some Christians view holiness. On their best behavior at church but not that different from the world the rest of the time.

Jesus taught us to pray, "holy is Your name." Set apart, to honor His name and live a holy life.

Goals for this Session:

- Discover the holiness of God's name.
- Consider why Jesus taught us to begin our prayers this way.
- Examine what God's names reveal about Him.
- Pray honest prayers that begin and end with worship.

Ice Breaker

In what ways is holiness viewed as an outdated concept for some people, even in the church?

Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:9–13**, **Isaiah 6:1–8**, and **John 17:1–6** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

Day Two – Holy, Holy, Holy

Read Isaiah 6:1–8

To say “hallowed be Your name” does not mean we are praying for God’s name to be made holy. God’s name *is* holy. We are praying for God’s holy, refining presence to work in us to honor Him.

1. What does a name represent? In business, we think in terms of a brand. The name defines the product, the service, the identity. Having a good name is synonymous with recognition, influence, and success. In personal terms, we think of reputation—character and the qualities that make us essentially who we are.
2.
 - a. God’s name expresses and reflects His divine nature. He is who He is. When you think of God’s name and nature, what comes to mind? How would you describe God?

 - b. Why do you think Jesus taught us to begin our prayers by hallowing God’s name?
3. Have you ever prayed to feel the Lord’s presence? Like a song, we welcome God’s Spirit to come fill the atmosphere and let us experience the glory of His goodness. When it comes from a true heart, it’s music to God’s ears. It’s the prayer He will answer. Consider how the Lord did this for Isaiah.
 - a. What did Isaiah see and hear and feel? Is this different from what we usually have in mind when we picture coming into God’s presence? In what way?

 - b. What did Isaiah realize and confess about himself? Why will this always be a consistent part of truly experiencing God’s presence? Do you welcome it? Why or why not?

 - c. “I am undone” is a response God will always hear and accept. “It’s no big deal” is *never* acceptable. Isaiah’s vision changed his understanding of God’s holy response to sin and it can change ours. In what way?

Isaiah 8:13

Isaiah 59:1–2

Isaiah 57:15–16

4. When God wants to use a man or woman, He lets them feel deeply their need for Him, and then He will light a fire in them. God chose Isaiah to call his generation back to holiness. But first, Isaiah needed a personal experience of God’s mercy and forgiveness that would give him purpose and stir him to say, “Here am I, send me.”

- a. “In the year that King Uzziah died.” This was an unsettling event for the nation, and Isaiah in particular. His earthly king turned out to be a hero with feet of clay. Now he was gone. Judah was in a deep moral slide, too corrupt to change and too comfortable to care. How disheartening. Isaiah had nothing but woe and judgment to proclaim to his people. Until he saw the Lord. How did Isaiah’s encounter with the Lord change what mattered to him?

Uzziah was king of Judah for 52 years. He did right in the Lord’s sight and God blessed him. Everything he touched prospered. The nation was strong and stable during his reign. But pride was his undoing (2 Chronicles 26:16).

Uzziah felt entitled to take the priest’s place, in direct violation of God’s holiness. Instead of repenting when he was confronted, he got angry and defiant. Uzziah took the censer and went to the altar, where he was immediately struck with leprosy. Sadly, Uzziah spent his last years in isolation, a leper until the day he died.

Can you identify with Isaiah? In what way?

- b. King Uzziah’s attempt to barge into God’s presence on his own terms ended badly. What had he failed to understand about God? What do we learn from him?

5. Like live coals from the altar, it will hurt at some level to experience holiness. God is a refining fire, intent on making us holy (Malachi 3:2–3). Our holy life began with salvation—not by any doing of ours, but by what Jesus our Savior did for us (Titus 3:4–7). From that moment until our last breath, we are being sanctified, set apart for God’s purposes and glory.

Job 23:10

1 Peter 1:6–7

When, and in what way, are you most aware of God’s refining fire?

Memory Verse

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?
Exodus 15:11 ESV

Think it over . . . What will you praise God for today?

Day Three – Holiness Is Christ in Me

Read John 17:3–5, 17–19

What is the most effective way to honor God’s name as holy? By being holy. This John 17 prayer (the real Lord’s prayer) is what Jesus prayed for us. In this session, we look at a few key verses, but read the entire prayer for yourself. It is time well spent.

Everything that Jesus came to do is compressed into a few words (John 17:3–5). In those few simple verses, we see all eternity in the planning, accomplished in thirty-three years, so that we can live forever. Think about it.

- a. What is eternal life?
 - b. Why did Jesus come?
 - c. Where is He now?
2. Jesus prayed for us to be holy (John 17:17–19). Holiness is not an optional, deluxe version of salvation. If Jesus died to make us holy, then holy we must be. Consider what that means.
- a. Can we identify holiness when we see it? What does it look like to you?
 - b. Some associate holiness with being austere and rigid. Does that describe Jesus? What was it about Jesus that attracted people to Him?
3. Holiness is the most important thing about us because it gives weight to our words and life with others. It’s our voice, even when we don’t speak, to draw people to want to know God. Briefly note what holiness “looks like” in normal, everyday life.

Matthew 5:14–16

Romans 12:1–2

1 Peter 3:15–16

**“What do your children,
your family, your friends,
need most from you?
Your personal holiness.
Whatever else you think
is more important than
holiness . . . isn’t.”**

Timothy Keller

Think of someone who was instrumental in bringing you to Jesus. Share how their life and witness influenced you.

4. “Hallowed be Your name” means: (Check all that apply.)
- a. It’s simply a polite and respectful way to start your prayer. _____
 - b. Worship and adoration of God for who He is and what He does. _____
 - c. An expression of devotion, “You are first in my heart and in my life.” _____
 - d. An expressed pledge to represent God in our actions and attitudes. _____
 - e. A petition that more people would come to know God and honor His name. _____
 - f. Add your own thought. _____

Memory Verse

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Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?
Exodus 15:11 ESV

Think it over . . .

How have you seen God at work in the lives of your family and friends? What will you pray for them today?

Day Four – What’s in a Name?

Psalm 9:10

Those who know Your name will put their trust in You.

God’s name is glorified and our faith is made strong when we pray, knowing God’s character and His ways. Some of God’s names are listed for you here, with space between for you to record your own thoughts and response.

1. **Yahweh** (Jehovah) – I AM (Genesis 2:4, Exodus 3:14). With this name, God reveals that He is self-existent. No beginning, no end. All of God’s names stem from His works except this one. This is the name that fully expresses God’s being.
2. **Elohim** – Creator (Genesis 1:1). This is the name that reveals God to us at the beginning of time. Not His beginning, for Elohim has always existed and time is part of His creation. God wasn’t just hovering out in space—He created space too. God transcends time, space, and matter. Elohim is a *plural* name, indicating the triune nature of God.

3. **El-Shaddai** – God Almighty (Genesis 17:1). The Lord used this name when He made the covenant with Abraham. It expresses God’s unlimited power and unfailing faithfulness. Nothing is too hard for God and He always keeps His promises.
4. **Adonai** – My Lord (Genesis 15:2, 2 Samuel 7:18). This name recognizes God’s rule and divine ownership. He is Lord of all and takes loving responsibility for the care and wellbeing of His servants and His creation.
5. **Jehovah-Jireh** – The Lord our Provider (Genesis 22:14). We’re familiar with Abraham’s test of obedience and how the Lord blessed him for holding nothing back. God saw and God provided.
6. **Jehovah-Tsaba** – The Lord our Warrior (1 Samuel 17:45). This is the name that David invoked when he fought Goliath. Perspective is everything. David saw Goliath’s size but his focus was on the King of the universe, mighty in power. David habitually kept a sense of awe for God and His glory, and that cut his enemy down to size.
7. **Jehovah-Rapha** – The Lord our Healer (Exodus 15:25–26). This name refers to God’s healing of infirmities of body, mind, and spirit. The Israelite’s situation at Marah points to an important truth that God not only heals but also has a purpose for our pain and problems.

Memory Verse

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Exodus 15:11 ESV

Think it over . . .

Which of God’s names puts your current circumstances into perspective? What will you trust Him to do with you, for you, through you?

Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

Memory Verse

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?
Exodus 15:11 ESV

And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”

Greg Laurie

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests
