

# First Priority Leaders' Guide

## Module 2: Understanding God's Holiness

### Module Overview:

God is holy, pure, and set apart from all corruption, while human attempts to redefine good and evil lead to deceit and destruction. True wisdom and understanding come only from trusting God to define good and evil and relying on Him, through faith in Jesus, to guide our hearts and minds.

### Module 2, Week 1: God Alone Is Holy

This week, we will talk about God's holiness, which means He is without corruption or deceit. By contrast, the human desire to redefine good and evil leads to a deceitful heart and mind.

1. **Holiness** means set apart or distinct, especially from anything impure or sinful. **1 John 1:5** tells us that God is truth and goodness, and in Him there is no falsehood or evil. **Isaiah 40:25** reads: *To whom can the holy God be compared? Is there anyone else like Him?*

**Question:** How is God distinct from all creation, and why does this matter? Because God existed before creation and is complete, He is not dependent on anyone or anything. Consequently, His love is pure and unconditional.

2. When talking about God's holiness, the Bible often includes God's purity—being free from defilement or corruption associated with sin. In **Isaiah 24:5** we read: *The people who live on the earth have caused it to become unclean. They have not obeyed God's laws. They have turned against His teaching. They have not obeyed the covenant that God made with them forever.*

**Question:** According to these verses, what caused people to become unclean (defiled)? By not following God's laws and turning against His teachings.

3. God is not like us—He is without corruption or sin. In **Numbers 23:19** we learn: *God is not human. He does not tell lies. He does not change His thoughts. If He promises to do something, it happens.* **Deuteronomy 32:4** adds: *The Lord is your mighty defender, perfect and just in all His ways.*

**Question:** According to these verses, how is God different from humans? God does not lie and is perfect in every way. Humans, on the other hand, are imperfect in every way.

4. Everything God says and does flows from His holy nature. **Isaiah 57:15** says: *The Mighty God is far higher than all others. He rules from above and He lives forever. His name is holy. He says, 'I live in a high and holy place. But I am also with anyone who is humble and sorry when they do wrong. I will comfort people like that, and I will give them hope.'*

**Question:** Even though God is holy, what does He provide to those who are humble and sorry for their sins? He promises to comfort them and provide hope.

### Let's Talk About It:

- In what ways is God different from humans (and the rest of His creation)? Why does this matter?
- Why is it critical for God to be holy and pure?
- Why should it matter to us that God is without corruption?
- How has this lesson helped you understand God's holy nature?

## Module 2, Week 2: The Human Heart is Deceitful

Last week, we talked about God's holiness, which means He is without corruption or deceit. By contrast, the human desire to redefine good and evil leads to a deceitful heart and mind.

1. When Adam and Eve ate from the tree, their eyes were opened, giving them the ability to redefine good and evil on their own terms. This made them vulnerable to deception and revealed the danger of trusting ourselves instead of God. The Bible is filled with God's warnings, but people continue to respond: *We don't care what you say. We will continue to do what we want. We will do the evil our stubborn heart's desire.* (**Jeremiah 18:11-12**)

**Question:** According to these verses, what is the condition of the people's hearts? They don't care about God, and they are stubborn and blinded.

2. In **Isaiah 29:13-15**, we read: *It will be very bad for people who try to deceive the Lord. They try to hide their thoughts from Him. They secretly decide to do evil things. They boast and say, 'Nobody can see us. Nobody knows what we are doing.'*

**Question:** How do these verses describe people "who try to deceive the Lord"? They try to hide their evil thoughts and actions and then boast about it.

3. **Jeremiah 17:9** tells us that above all things, our minds and hearts are deceitful and devious, and desperately unhealthy. **Ephesians 4:22** says: *Put away the old person you used to be. Have nothing to do with your old sinful life. It was sinful because you were fooled into following bad desires.*

**Question:** Why does having a deceitful heart and mind affect our decision-making? Because our minds fool us into thinking our selfish desires are justified and should be followed.

4. Actions and choices have consequences, and **Romans 6:23** tells us: *If you serve sin as your master, it will pay you with death. But if you belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, God gives you a gift! That gift is life with God forever.*

**Question:** What is the cost of following our sinful desires, and what is God's free gift? The cost of following our sinful desires is physical and spiritual death, but God offers us eternal life if we put our faith and trust in Jesus, God's Son.

5. In **Romans 12:2** we read: *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

### Let's Talk About It:

- What are common ways that we copy the behaviors of "the world"?
- Why does our way of thinking need to change for us to become a new person?
- How do we know that God's will for us is good?

**Challenge:** Spend the remainder of your time in prayer together; ask God to help you trust Him as the mighty defender and giver of hope.

### Week 3: God Alone Defines Good and Evil

True wisdom is not about knowing everything; it's about depending on God to teach us what is truly good and evil.

1. When we depend on God for wisdom, we trust Him to teach us the knowledge of good and evil.

In **1 Kings 3**, Solomon asked God for *an understanding mind and a hearing heart* so he could discern between good and evil. **James 1:5** says: *If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.*

**Question:** What does it mean to have an “understanding mind and a hearing heart,” and how does God respond when we ask? It means our thoughts and hearts are not polluted by selfishness and deceit. God generously gives wisdom to those who trust Him.

2. **Proverbs 2:6** says: *It is the Lord who gives wisdom; from Him come knowledge and understanding.*

**James 3:17** adds: *Wisdom from God is pure. It is peace-loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.*

**Question:** According to these verses, who gives wisdom and how is it described? God gives wisdom that is pure, gentle, full of mercy, and sincere.

3. **Proverbs 3:5** says: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know.*

**Colossians 2:2-3** says: *I want them to be strengthened and joined together with love and to have the full confidence that comes from understanding. I want them to know completely the secret truth that God has made known. That truth is Christ Himself. In Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are kept safe.*

**Question:** According to these verses, who is the secret truth guarding all wisdom and knowledge? Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

4. **Ephesians 1:17** says: *I always pray to the great and glorious Father, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that He will give you the Holy Spirit, who will let you know truths about God and help you understand them, so that you will know Him better.*

**Question:** According to this verse, how does the Holy Spirit help those who believe in Him? He gives us knowledge of God and the ability to understand and know Him.

#### Let's Talk About It:

- Why is it important to know that God's wisdom is pure, gentle, and sincere?
- How do you feel about God being the true source of knowledge and wisdom?
- How has this lesson helped you trust God to teach you wisdom rather than relying on yourself?

# First Priority Leaders' Guide

## Module 2: Understanding God's Holiness

### Module 1, Week 4: INSPIRE Week

Welcome to our First Priority group! We are so glad you are here [Introduction of student leadership team].

We get together every week to talk about God, what He says in the Bible, and discuss different life topics. Even though we are a student-led Christian group, all students are welcome here, no matter their belief system or background. This is a reliable and safe place to make friends and feel connected.

Now, let's open the meeting in prayer [student leader prays].

#### Introduction of INSPIRE Week:

For the past three weeks, we've learned that God is holy, pure, and set apart, and true wisdom comes from trusting Him to define good and evil and following Jesus in faith.

This week is INSPIRE Week, when a student leader shares a faith story to encourage us to draw closer to God. Want me to make it even more concise—like one tight sentence?

#### Student leader's faith story NOW

#### Prayer and invitation:

We will now take a minute to talk to God through prayer. In the quiet of your heart and mind, I invite anyone here who wants to begin a relationship with God through faith in Jesus, to agree in your heart and mind with what I am saying because God hears our private thoughts. I will pray out loud and I invite you to pray this in your head:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to you with an open heart. I acknowledge my selfishness and how it has separated me from you. Even though I may not fully understand, I believe that Jesus is the way back to you and want to place my trust in Him today. Help me to turn from doing things my way and release my life over to you. Thank you for promising to hear and answer my prayer.

In Jesus Name, I pray. Amen

#### Pass out Response Cards NOW

If this is your prayer today, know that God welcomes you into His family, and you can begin walking in a new relationship with Him right now. And please join us for next week's meeting when we will start a new module.

**Challenge:** Remember to invite your friends to church or youth group.