

FACILITATOR / TEACHER GUIDE

SESSION 3 – HOLY IS YOUR NAME

Seeing the Character of God Revealed Through His Name

PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

This session marks a significant shift in the Lord's Prayer. After establishing **relationship** ("Our Father in heaven"), Jesus now teaches His followers to move into **worship**: "*Holy is Your name.*"

Before needs are voiced and before requests are made, Jesus invites us to pause and acknowledge **who God is**. This session helps participants understand that prayer is not centered on us—it begins with **reverence, awe, and recognition of God's character**.

The purpose of this session is to guide participants into a deeper awareness of God's holiness and to reflect on how worship reshapes the way we pray.

INTENDED USE

This lesson is designed for **personal preparation and group discussion**. Participants should complete the Student Guide prior to the group gathering.

The facilitator's role is to:

- Help the group slow down and notice the movement of the prayer
- Encourage reflection rather than explanation
- Create space for awe, wonder, and humility
- Gently shift focus away from self and toward God

This session benefits from a **reverent and unhurried tone**.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand why Jesus places worship at the beginning of prayer
- Reflect on the meaning of God's holiness
- Recognize how God's character shapes prayer
- Distinguish between casual familiarity and reverent relationship
- Approach prayer with greater awareness of who God is



FACILITATOR PREPARATION

Before leading the session:

- Slowly read the opening lines of the Lord's Prayer
- Reflect on how you personally respond to God's holiness
- Consider how worship differs from praise or gratitude
- Prepare to allow silence and reflection
- Resist the urge to define holiness exhaustively

Let the mystery of God remain present.

SESSION FLOW (60–75 MINUTES)

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Welcome participants and briefly connect this session to the previous ones.

You may say:

“We’ve seen that prayer begins with relationship. Today we notice how Jesus immediately moves us into worship—recognizing who God is before speaking about ourselves.”

Open with prayer, asking God to:

- Draw attention away from self
- Awaken reverence and wonder
- Shape hearts toward worship

Suggested prayer focus:

- Awareness of God's holiness
 - Humility and openness
 - Attentiveness to God's character
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2. ORIENTING THE GROUP: A SHIFT IN PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Briefly frame the movement of the prayer.



Key points to highlight:

- The prayer moves from relationship to reverence
- Jesus teaches us to acknowledge God before making requests
- Worship shapes everything that follows

Key teaching point:

Prayer begins not with our needs, but with **who God is**.

3. DISCUSSION: “HOLY IS YOUR NAME” (10 MINUTES)

Invite participants to reflect on the phrase itself.

Discussion prompts:

- **What comes to mind when you hear the word “holy”?**
- **Why do you think Jesus includes this line so early in the prayer?**
- **How does this phrase slow or re-orient prayer?**

Facilitator guidance:

- Avoid abstract definitions
 - Encourage experiential responses
 - Allow multiple perspectives
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4. DISCUSSION: THE MEANING OF GOD’S NAME (10 MINUTES)

Explore the idea of God’s “name” as character and identity.

Discussion prompts:

- **What does a name represent about a person?**
- **How does knowing God’s character shape trust?**
- **What happens when prayer ignores who God is?**

Facilitator insight:

To honor God’s name is to recognize His nature, not merely speak words.

5. DISCUSSION: WORSHIP BEFORE REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Shift attention to prayer posture.



Key teaching point:

Worship re-centers prayer away from control and toward trust.

Discussion prompts:

- **Why is it difficult to begin prayer with worship?**
- **How does worship reshape our desires?**
- **What changes when prayer starts with awe instead of urgency?**

Encourage participants to reflect personally.

6. DISCUSSION: HOLINESS AND NEARNESS (5–10 MINUTES)

Hold together reverence and relationship.

Discussion prompts:

- **How can God be both holy and close?**
- **What happens when we emphasize one and ignore the other?**
- **How does Jesus help us hold both together?**

Avoid rushing toward tidy answers.

7. REFLECTION: HOW WORSHIP SHAPES PRAYER (5–10 MINUTES)

Invite inward reflection.

Reflection questions:

- **How often does worship shape your prayers?**
- **What usually takes center stage—God’s character or your concerns?**
- **What might change if prayer regularly began with worship?**

Allow silence.

8. INVITATION: PRACTICING WORSHIP IN PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Help participants look ahead.

Discussion prompts:

- **What would it look like to pause before asking?**



- **How might naming God's character reshape prayer this week?**
- **What is one gentle shift you want to practice?**

Encourage simplicity, not performance.

9. CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING (5 MINUTES)

Close by thanking God for:

- His holiness
- His nearness
- The invitation to worship

You may end by slowly reading the opening line of the Lord's Prayer together.

KEY TAKEAWAY FOR FACILITATORS

This session invites **reverence, not resolution**.

If participants leave with:

- Greater awareness of God's holiness
- A slower, more attentive approach to prayer
- A renewed sense of awe

then the session has accomplished its purpose.

Let worship lead.

Let God remain God.

Let prayer begin with who He is.

