

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

UNDERSTANDING SALVATION

LESSON 9: SANCTIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module entitled *Understanding Salvation*. This series of lessons examines the very foundational idea of salvation, and what occurs in the life of a person who becomes a Christian. These lessons are critical for every believer to understand before they can effectively share the Gospel with others. Each lesson examines a concept from a Biblical perspective and includes time for discussion of these principles as well as how to effectively apply them to your life. This set of lessons is ideal for use with discipling new believers to ensure they fully understand these ideas.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians or those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christian salvation. Those who are preparing for evangelism and discipleship may benefit from discussion of these ideas. These lessons assume the participant has made a decision to follow Jesus and wants to explore Christianity further.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help the leader prepare for the lessons and can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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UNDERSTANDING SALVATION

LESSON 9: SANCTIFICATION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to gain an understanding of the term sanctification. Participants will understand what happens to them when they are sanctified and how the sanctification process continues.

LEADER'S NOTE

This lesson focuses on the processes that turn selfish sinful people into people who are more and more like Christ every day. This is the changing of our desires and our nature. Sometimes Christians look for extraordinary ways to bring about holy life. This may include extreme self-denial, rituals, and searching for spiritual experiences. This is problematic because while God does work in our lives in supernatural ways, we are given ordinary means of grace to bring about sanctification. Through these, God brings about extraordinary supernatural change in our lives and allows us to complete the purpose we were intended for. *Note: There are different denominational views on sanctification. For the purposes of this lesson we have taken a widely held view.*

INTRODUCTION

(Select two or three of the following questions)

- ❖ How do you set apart time for God? Has becoming a Christian changed how you use your time or your money?
- ❖ Recall a time when you did something you knew you were not supposed to. How did you feel afterwards? What reparations did you make?
- ❖ Around your community, you can see the consequences of sin in people's lives every day. What are some of these problems in your community (or the community you are preaching the Gospel to) and how are they the direct results of sin?



STUDY

TEACH

❖ What is Sanctification?

- The work that begins in a Christian with regeneration and justification is continued through the process of sanctification. The word "sanctify" means set apart or purified from sin. The Bible tells us that a person is sanctified by faith in Jesus (Acts 26:8).
- *There are two ways the term sanctify is used in Scripture. You will be explaining both to participants.*

❖ **Positional Sanctification:** This term refers to our place or position with God. Being sanctified by God means we have been set apart for His purpose. We no longer live under the confines of our fleshly desires, but rather under the freedom of our title as God's Heirs. What does the Bible say about our positional sanctification? *Read the following verses as a group and discuss their implications.*

- Acts 20:32 *We are set apart and built up for our inheritance.*
- 1 Corinthians 6:10-11 *We have been given a place in the Kingdom of God.*
- Hebrews 10:10 *We have been given a place in heaven through the offering of the body of Jesus.*
- Jude 1:17-22 *Scripture contrasts those who live by their own desires and those who have a place in the Kingdom of God.*
- 1 Corinthians 1:2 *We are called to be saints.*
- Romans 8:29 *God foreknew those who would be called according to His purpose.*

❖ **Practical Sanctification:** Another use of the word sanctification refers to the ongoing process in a believer's life of becoming more like Christ. This will not be attained in our lifetime and requires constant work on the part of the believer.

- It is important to note that although we continue to sin and struggle through temptation, we can have victory over sin to increasing degrees as we choose the way of Jesus over sin. We are set apart in Christ Jesus. God does this work to the degree that we obey Him and are faithful to what He asks us to do. Sanctification doesn't mean we are perfect, it means we have purpose.

❖ **The Means of Practical Sanctification:**

God provides means, or tools, for our continued transformation into the image of His Son. These are not radical self-denial, or mystical experiences that transform us, but daily habits of continued communion with God.



- **The Bible:** The Bible can be considered a roadmap to the Christian life. Psalm 119:105 refers to the Word of God as a “lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Consider these other verses to learn more about how the Bible is a tool for us in our journey of sanctification.
 - [2 Timothy 3:16](#)
 - [Psalm 32:8](#)
 - [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)
 - [James 1:5-6](#)

- **The Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as a helper. John 14:26 says “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to us and is meant to guide, convict, and lead us closer to Christ. Consider the following verses:
 - [Acts 2:38](#)
 - [Galatians 5:22-23](#)
 - [John 14:15-17](#)
 - [Luke 11:13](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 2:13](#)

- **The Church:** A church is a group of people who have a common belief in Jesus. In Proverbs 11:14 we learn that “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.” Worshipping God and growing in Christ is personal, but is not meant to be private. A church can be large or small, in a building or in a house, but either way, it can provide a great source of strength for Christians who are in a constant state of battle against the sinful desires of the flesh. Consider the following verses to learn how the church family supports one another:
 - [Hebrews 10:25](#)
 - [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#)
 - [Matthew 16:18](#)
 - [James 5:14](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 12:27](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 12:14-26](#)

- **Jesus Christ:** The Bible makes it clear that we have a helper in Jesus. He understands our weaknesses because He Himself was tempted (although He did not sin). Hebrews 4:16 says “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Jesus understands us and sometimes when things seem most difficult, a friend who understands is all we need.



- **Prayer:** The way that we approach Jesus is through prayer. If we want to be close to a friend we need to talk with them, and in the same way, if we want to be close to Jesus, we need to talk to him. Jesus is there for our praise, to comfort us, to provide guidance through God's Word, and also to hear our requests. Consider the following verses:
 - Philippians 4:6
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - Romans 8:26
 - James 5:16
 - Jeremiah 33:3

TASK

- As one group, or in smaller groups, ask participants to read Matthew 4:1-11.
 - How did Jesus battle temptation?
 - What strategies did Satan use to tempt Jesus?
 - What can you do to defend yourself against the temptation to sin?

DISCUSSION

- ❖ What does the word 'holy' mean? Knowing that God set you apart to be holy, what changes do you need to make in your life today?
- ❖ Describe the two ways that sanctification is used in the Bible. How are each of these achieved?
- ❖ How have you seen believers around you become more like Christ as they grow in their relationship with Him?
- ❖ How can you build practical sanctification into your everyday life? (Remind participants that God has given us the Bible, Church, Prayer, The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ Himself).

PRAYER

Close the lesson in prayer. Thank God that we are being sanctified by His power. Thank Him that we are set apart to be holy for His use, and pray that He would reveal that purpose to each of the participants in a real way. Thank God for the means He has provided for our growing in holiness, and pray that the participants would commit themselves to the pursuit of these things. Pray for the participants, especially in the areas they have indicated that need God's healing and restoration through sanctification.