

Unit 6: Leviticus

Lesson 2: Holiness



Today's Objectives

This lesson will prepare students to be able to:

- List three ways God's holiness is like the sun
- Name where God's holiness was most intense
- Name what Jesus claimed about God's temple

Pray

The chariots of God are tens of thousands
and thousands of thousands;
the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary
When you ascended on high,
you took many captives;
you received gifts from people,
even from the rebellious—
that you, LORD God, might dwell there.
Amen.



Engage

Briefly discuss the following as a group.

What do you think earth would be like if we lived much closer to the sun?

What would it be like if we lived much farther away?

If you had to choose, which one would you pick and why?

Explore

*Prepare to watch the **Holiness** video. Read the following text aloud to your students. Whenever you see a bolded question, pause to let students respond.*

In the beginning of Genesis, God planted a garden and made humans to dwell in His presence there. But He also gave humans a choice.

This choice was represented by a tree. **Does anyone remember what the tree was called?**

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil represented the choice humans had between God's wisdom or their own wisdom.

Sadly, humans chose to follow their own wisdom, and this meant they were sent out of the garden and away from the hotspot of God's Presence.

But God never gave up on His plans to dwell with humans in the garden.

The Tabernacle was the new place where God would live with His people.

And yet, at the end of Exodus, Moses couldn't enter.

In Leviticus, we see that the issue with God and humans dwelling together is a matter of God's holiness. Wisdom begins by recognizing that God is holy and respecting His holiness.

The Bible often translates this with the word fear. If you've ever heard "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom," it has to do with recognizing God's holiness.

But what does it mean that God is holy?

As we watch, try to listen for these three things. *(If you have multiple students and/or younger students, you may choose to have each student pick just one to focus on.)*

- **Three ways God's holiness is like the sun**
- **Where God's holiness was most intense**
- **What Jesus claimed about God's temple**

If you don't catch them all, it's okay. We'll go over them after the video.



You may also view or download this video at:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/holiness/>

After watching the video, use the following conversation guide to discuss today's objectives with your students. Read the following text out loud. Whenever you reach

a bolded question, pause to let students respond. If they don't remember the answer, that is okay!

Comprehensive answers are provided in italics. You can prompt students for the answers or read them out loud. When you are satisfied with their understanding, move on to the rest of the text.

Conversation Guide

1. What part of the video was most interesting to you or caught your attention?

2. The Israelites couldn't enter the tabernacle as they were because it was dangerous for them to be in God's presence without respecting His holiness. Just like we take steps to prepare our bodies to be exposed to the sun, they had to take steps to prepare to be in God's presence. According to the video, **what are three ways God's holiness is like the sun?**

[Like the sun, God is unique, powerful, and a source of life.]

3. The earth is always in the presence of the sun, but the sun's presence is most intense during summer and at the equator. Similarly, we are always in God's presence, but God's holiness is most intense in certain places. In Leviticus, **where was God's holiness most intense?**

[God's holiness was most intense in the center of the tabernacle (and later, the temple).]

4. God's holiness made the tabernacle, and then the temple, a very special place.

What did Jesus claim about God's temple?

[Jesus claimed that he was God's temple – the human embodiment of God's holiness – and that through him God's holy presence would bring life and healing and hope. Jesus then took it a step further and said that if we follow him then we can be part of God's temple, too.]

Practice

Ask students to open their binders and find the worksheet for Unit 6, Lesson 2 (labeled Holiness).

Help students complete the worksheet:

- Find each passage in a Bible and write or draw something you discover about this theme.
- In the circle, draw or write something that helps you remember what this theme is about.
- Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences. (These are the same topics you discussed after you watched the video. Refer to the conversation guide if students need help filling in the blanks.)

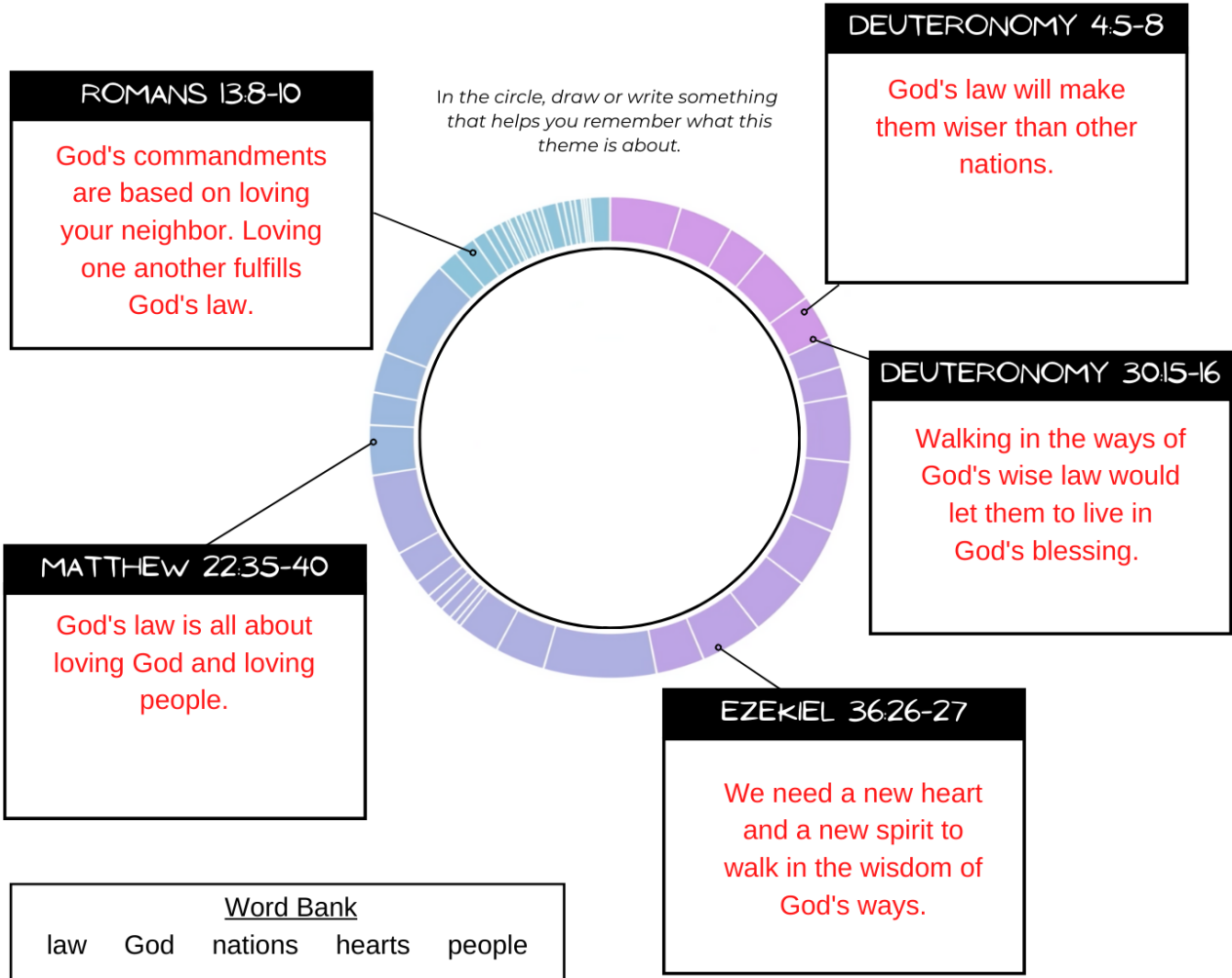
*Ask students to file this page in the **Themes** section of their binders.*

Themes
The Law

OneStory

The Law

Find each passage in a Bible and draw or write something you discover about this theme.



- By following the laws of the Torah, Israel would show the other nations what God is like.
- Jesus said that all the laws in the Torah could be fulfilled by what he called “the great command,” that we are to love God and love people.
- Jesus told his followers that he would send God’s Spirit to transform their hearts so that they could follow him and fulfill the purpose of the law.

Stoke the fires of your student's imagination by reading the following text and engaging in the questions that follow. It is ideal to discuss these questions as a group. If you are short on time, you may choose to ask the questions rhetorically and invite students to think about them as they go about their day.

When we understand what the tabernacle was all about, it helps us to better understand how amazing it is that Jesus called himself the temple. His listeners would have heard stories about God's tabernacle. They knew God's presence was supposed to live at the temple. We can imagine why some people wanted to be near Jesus and why some shrank back in fear!

What's more amazing, because of Jesus we are now invited to be part of God's temple, too. Jesus gives His holiness to us, so we can come boldly to the throne and live near to God, always, just as He always intended.

Why do you think God longs to live with us?

What does it feel like to be in God's presence?

How does God's presence bring healing and hope?

Pray

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and thousands of thousands;
the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary
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you took many captives;
you received gifts from people,
even from the rebellious—
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Psalm 68:17-18 (NIV)

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