

# 4TH GRADE GUIDE 8

## GOD IS HOLY FOUNDATION: GOD IS

### BIG TRUTH: GOD IS HOLY

Leviticus 19:1-2; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:13-15; 2:9; Leviticus 20:26; Deuteronomy 7:6; Matthew 5:48

### BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 1:16; LEVITICUS 11:44

*"Since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"*

### BIG IDEAS

- We must be holy because God is holy.
- The law is a gift from God, not a burden.
- God is our only hope to become holy like Him.

### BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 20:1-21

When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He gave His people the law as a gift to guide them to Him. The law shows His people their need for a Savior and how to be holy. God is a holy God and He requires His people to be holy.

### FOUNDATION: GOD IS

"God is" means that there is only one god in the universe. He alone is Lord over everything that exists, and He alone is worthy of our worship. This also means that every good thing that exists comes from God. All good things come from Him because goodness is a part of who He is as the one true God. It is a part of His nature and character to be good, and everything that comes from God is good. Thankfully God has not chosen to withhold His goodness from His creation, but instead gives it freely to us.

### BIG AIMS



#### Every child should know that:

- There is only one true God, and He is good.
- We can know God because He has made Himself known.
- God alone is our source of life and joy.



#### Every child should be able to:

- Memorize the Bible verse each week about who God is.
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to know Him more.
- Tell someone else a truth about God each week.



#### Every child should feel:

- Loved by God, and thankful for His love for us.
- Broken over the depth of our sin against God.
- Joy in Jesus, the only Son of God who came to save us.



#### Every child should want:

- Learn more about the God who has made Himself known.
- Repent of their sin and of the lies they believe about God.
- Cling to God as the source of truth.

### FAMILY DEVOTION: BE HOLY

God is holy and perfect and unlike any other being. He commands His people to be Holy as He is holy.



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**BIBLE VERSE: 1 PETER 1:16; LEVITICUS 11:44***"Since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"***God determines holiness.***"Since it is written..."*

- God is first and before all other beings. He determines what is right and good. He decides what is holy. He determines holiness and the only way we know how to be holy is by what He tells us in His Word and what He shows us in His actions.
- We do not get to decide what is holy and what is not. We are finite creatures who understand only a little, while God is infinite in His understanding and understands everything. He made the world and everything in it; therefore, He has the authority to determine what is righteous and what is not.

**God alone is sinless.***"You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

- Holiness is a state of being that is true of God alone because only God is without sin. God has always existed in a state of holiness because He has always been without sin.
- He is perfect in every way and has never committed a wrong. He alone is the only holy Being. He alone can command His people to be like Him. He is the standard by which His people are measured and His holiness is what His people strive to achieve.

**Knowing Jesus is the only way to be holy.***"You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

- In his own power, man cannot be holy. God made a way for people to achieve holiness by sending His only Son to the earth. When Jesus came, He took on human flesh and lived the life that we could not. By doing this, He made a way for all who believe in Him to be holy.
- We can achieve holiness by knowing Jesus. We can only know Jesus truly when we have saving faith in Him. This means that we repent of our sin and believe that He is our Savior. When we do this, God applies Jesus' holiness to us. This is the only way for man to be holy as God is holy.

**BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 20:1-21***The Ten Commandments*

Supporting Scripture: Leviticus 11:44; Galatians 3:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21

**Teacher Introduction:**

Rules and boundaries are not always well-received. In this world, we often think of them as either good or oppressive. When God chose His special people, the Israelites, and led them out of their slavery in Egypt, He prepared them to live in the Promised Land by giving them the Law. He gave them Ten Commandments that served as a guide for their lives. These commandments pointed them to their need for Him. God is a holy God who is without spot or blemish. He commands His people to be holy like He is and He shows them how to be holy by giving them His law. The commandments also show them how to pursue holiness daily. These Ten Commandments were not the whole law that God gave His people, but they did point them to His holiness. They showed the people their lack of holiness and God's righteousness. God's law does the same for us. When we understand that God is holy and righteous and we are not, we understand fully our need for salvation. When we compare ourselves to God, we know we fall short of the righteousness required for salvation. God's law is not a burden to us. It is a gift that guides us to Him and shows us how to live for Him. As we pursue holiness daily, we can only achieve this holiness with the help of God's Spirit. We can only have God's Spirit if we have saving faith in Jesus. Having saving faith means repenting of our sin and believing that Jesus is our Savior. God, in His holiness, makes a way for His people to be like Him.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the story: The Ten Commandments. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Exodus 20:1-21 and teach the truth that God is Holy. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the truth that God is Holy.

**Opening Illustration:**

Play a game of musical bean bag with the children. The child left holding the bean bag when the music stops must step away from the circle. Tell the children that each child who steps away is set apart. When the game is over, tell them that being holy means being set apart and perfect. Tell them that God is holy and set apart.

**BIG IDEA: WE MUST BE HOLY BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY.<sup>1</sup>****Holiness means being set apart from others.**

- To be holy means to be set apart from others. Holy means to be sinless and righteous. It means you have no spot or blemish.
- To be holy is to be higher and greater than anything or anyone else.
- Holiness is the state of being set apart and sinless all of the time. It's a state of being greater all of the time.
- In Leviticus 11:44, God tells His people that He is holy.



Play a game of musical chairs with the children. When you finish, tell them that God is holy and tells His people to be holy or set apart, too. Tell them that when one of them got out of the game because they couldn't find a chair, they were set apart.

**God alone is truly holy.**

- Only God is really holy. He is the only Being who is truly without sin. He alone is righteous and always does what is right and good.
- He makes all of the right choices and always does what is right and good.
- He has no sin and never will have sin. He is set apart from others because He alone is God.
- There are no other gods; there is only God.

**God's people are to be holy.**

- Not only is God holy, but He commands His people to be holy, too.
- This means He wants His people to be set apart for Him.
- He doesn't want His people to follow the ways of the world. He wants His people to pursue righteousness and to seek to be like Him.
- This means they have to put off the things of this world and be different from the world.

*Why should God's people be holy? (God's people should be holy because He is holy.)*

1. Leviticus 11:44: God commands His people to be holy because He is holy.

**BIG IDEA: THE LAW IS A GIFT FROM GOD, NOT A BURDEN.<sup>2</sup>****The world's laws and rules are not perfect.**

- Rules and laws can be helpful, but they are not always perfect. The world's rules and laws are not perfect because they are made and carried out by sinful people.
- When sinful people try to carry out justice, they will always fall short. This will mean that sometimes their laws are burdens to people and oppressive.
- Our lives are usually made better by rules and laws, but we can sometimes see their imperfections.



Divide the children into groups and ask them to name some rules that they like and some that they don't. Share with them some ways that God's rules are good and helpful. Tell them that His rules are not a burden to us.

**God's law is perfect because it comes from a perfect God.**

- God is holy; therefore, His law is perfect and holy. This means that His law is always good and right.
- Everything He commands His people to do is right and good for them. It brings about the best life for them and the most glory for Him.
- When He gave the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-21, they were all very good because they came from a perfect God.
- His law leads to perfect justice because He is perfectly just.

**God's law is not a burden to His people.**

- Because God is perfect, His law is not a burden to His people. This means that His commands are good and when they are obeyed, they result in our good.
- When God's people obeyed the Ten Commandments, their lives were good. When we obey God's Word now, we live in a right relationship with Him and that results in our having a right life.
- God's law leads to our pursuing holiness and becoming more and more like Him.

*Why is God's law not a burden? (God is perfect and His law is perfect; therefore, His commands are not burdens.)*

2. Galatians 3:24: God gives the law to help His people and it is not burdensome.

**BIG IDEA: GOD IS OUR ONLY HOPE TO BECOME HOLY LIKE HIM.<sup>3</sup>****We are all born with a sin nature that leaves us hopeless.**

- We are all broken and sinful. No one is born with a perfect nature.
- We all sin against God and turn away from Him.
- We all are left hopeless and unable to be holy in our own power.
- We all need someone to help us because we cannot help ourselves.
- Our sin nature leads us to make choices that break God's law and pursue unholiness.



Divide the children into pairs and ask them to name some ways they can pursue holiness this week. Help them think of ways they can read their bibles, pray, and obey their parents. Tell them that God helps us pursue holiness by giving us Jesus.

**God made a way for us to be holy.**

- God is perfect and all-knowing. In His perfection, He made a way for us to be holy.
- He sent His Son, Jesus to be our substitute. Because Jesus is our substitute, we can be holy.
- Jesus came to the earth and lived the life that we could not live.
- He then died the death that we all deserve and because of that, when we have saving faith, we can be holy like God is holy.

**Without saving faith in Jesus, we cannot have personal holiness.**

- We can try to do good things. We can try to be good and even follow God's law.
- We can try to keep the Ten Commandments, but we will always fail. Only Jesus could keep God's law perfectly. Because of this, we can't be holy in our own power.
- When we have saving power in Jesus, His righteousness is applied to us. God looks at us and sees Jesus' perfection. Now, we can pursue holiness and strive to be like Him.
- When we break a law, we can have forgiveness because God forgives.

*Who is our only hope? (Jesus is our only hope because we cannot be holy in our own power.)*

3. 2 Corinthians 5:21: Because of Jesus, we can become holy like God. He is the only way we can be holy like God.

## HOOKS

**A Holy God**

Bring in a hula-hoop. Place it in the center of the room. Play a game of musical bean bag. When a child is left holding the bean bag when the music stops, ask that child to stand in the middle of the hula-hoop. Tell the class that they are set apart. When the game is over, tell them that God is set apart and holy.

**We Need Help**

Give the children a plastic spoon and ask them to place a balloon on it and pass it to their neighbor without touching the balloon. When they try several times and can't, tell them that they need help to do it. After you've played this game several times, tell them that we all need God's help to be holy. We cannot be holy in our own power.

**Worthy Of Our Praise**

Give the children a piece of paper and pencils. Ask them to draw a picture or write a prayer out to God thanking Him for being holy and for helping us be holy.

