

Inquiry Session: Holiness

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA

Inquiry Session

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Prepare

Set the space and provide a focal point with a candle and a Bible, marking the Scripture citations noted in the participant materials. Provide name tags, and have some refreshments available. If the group is larger than five or six people, guide the participants to share in smaller groups.

Gather

1. Greet the participants as they arrive, and take time for introductions as the session begins. Survey the group to see how everyone is doing. Ask if anyone has any questions, then invite them to share, in small groups, any experiences of prayer, worship, or God they have had since the last session.
2. Invite the participants to read Reflect on Your Experience. Invite the group to discuss what motivates an individual to be their best. Then brainstorm what comes to mind when they hear the word *holiness*. Explore whether the participants consider themselves to be holy. Why or why not?

Expand

1. Read and discuss Hear the Good News About Holiness. Include the following points in your conversation:
 - Responding to the call to holiness is never finished and continues until the day we die.
 - Holiness is a process that is achieved in stages and is influenced by the choices we make. Growth in holiness occurs as we cooperate with the grace of the Holy Spirit.
 - Holiness encompasses every aspect of life and every stage and walk of life.

2. Invite the group to share some examples of holiness or people who they would consider to be holy. Share with the group some stories from the lives of the saints, and encourage them to further explore the stories of saints responding to the call to holiness.
3. Read aloud each Scripture passage in Read the Word of God, followed by a moment of silent reflection. Then discuss each passage using these or similar questions:
 - What message do you hear in the passage?
 - What does the passage reveal about holiness and what it means to be holy?

Reflect and Share

1. Invite the group to read Respond Through Action and Witness to the Gospel. Explain, in general terms, what it means to examine one's conscience.
2. Encourage the group to practice an examination of conscience at the end of each day, using these three simple questions:
 - For what do I want to give thanks to God this day?
 - From whom do I need to ask forgiveness and to whom do I need to offer forgiveness?
 - For whom and for what do I want to ask God for a special blessing?

Pray

Invite the participants to close their eyes and to silently reflect on the questions of the examination of conscience listed above. After several minutes, conclude with these or similar words: *God, our Father, we pray these things in the name of the Lord Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*