Lesson 8: God Is My Sanctifier

Overview:

Key Focus: Jehovah M'Kaddesh; We can't make ourselves holy, only God can sanctify us.

Bible Story: The Ten Commandments (Jehovah M'Kaddesh)

Scriptures: Lev 20:7-8; Hebrews 10:10, 14

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV) Because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Paper, pen, eraser, and erasable pen
- Sign with the words "Jehovah M'Kaddesh."
- Two laundry baskets or boxes and lots of paper
- Waxed paper, playdough

Classroom Prep:

Write each word of the memory verse on pieces of paper or index cards and hide them around the room or tape them under the children's chairs.

Engage:

Review the names of God from previous lessons: Jehovah Jireh, provider; and Jehovah Rapha, healer.

Hold up a blank, white sheet of paper. **This paper is clean and reminds us of who God is. Today we will focus on the aspect that God is the sanctifier, which is a big word that means "set apart as holy." What do you think "holy" means?** (Possible answers: clean, pure, without sin, blameless, sacred) Select a volunteer to hold the paper representing God. Hold up another piece of paper and use a regular pen to write "I am not holy." **This paper represents us. We are not sinless or pure like God. Every person has done wrong things. Some people try to be holy by working to please God. They might read their Bible or serve in church to try to impress God. It would be like me trying to erase the ink and make the paper clean all by myself.**

Demonstrate with an eraser that it doesn't remove the ink. Turn the paper over to the clean side and use the erasable pen to write "Only God is holy." **This paper represents someone who recognizes they have sinned and are not holy. This person believes that Jesus forgives sins and allows Jesus to make them clean.** Erase the phrase on the paper and hold up the "clean" paper. **Inside the person who believes in Jesus, their spirit becomes "set apart" and clean, or we can say the person is sanctified. The person might still sin, but their spirit remains clean.** Hold up the clean "God" paper next to the erased paper. Flip the paper with writing to remind the children that the outside still sins but inside the spirit of the person is clean. **Now, as the person reads the Bible and starts living by following God's plan, the person becomes more and more like Jesus and God. Today, we will learn that only God sanctifies us and sets us apart to be holy.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Give a signal and have the children look for the hidden papers or index cards. Have the children with the papers arrange themselves in the correct order and say the verse. Repeat several times, by shuffling and passing out the papers until everyone has participated.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV) Because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Bible Story:

Hold up or point to the Jehovah M'Kaddesh sign. **Today, we have a big word and a really big concept to learn about God. One of God's names is Jehovah M'Kaddesh. To pronounce the name, make an "mmm" sound for the "M" and then "kuh-desh."** Practice a few times together. **Jehovah M'Kaddesh means "God who sanctifies us." We can't make ourselves holy, only God is truly holy and has the power to make us holy.**

Let's look in the Bible and find where and why this name appears in the book of Leviticus. Say the first three books of the Bible with me, "Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus." What are some things we learned about God in the book of Genesis? (God is the Creator; God created people in His image; God loved people made a plan to restore the relationship broken by sin; God blessed Abram to be a blessing.) **Do you remember the name of God that we learned in Genesis?** (Jehovah Jireh, God is our provider) **In Exodus, God saved baby Moses in a basket in the Nile so that he would lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Right after they had seen God's huge miracle and walked on dry land across the Red Sea, they complained that the only water they found was bitter. Do you remember the name of God that we learned in Exodus?** (Jehovah Rapha, God is our healer) **God told Moses to throw a stick in the water to make drinking water. God loved the people even though they complained. His name showed that He loved them and promised to be their healer. The children of Israel needed to understand more about God, such as God is holy and people are sinners who are not holy.**

God gave some laws that we call the Ten Commandments. Have the children name some of the commandments: no other gods, not to make an image, not to take the name of the Lord in vain, keep the Sabbath day holy (point out that the Sabbath was to be "set apart" and not like the other days), honor your parents, don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, and don't covet or want other's things. **The people heard the laws and realized they were sinners and couldn't keep God's laws. If they broke one tiny law, they were guilty and should receive punishment. The children of Israel were trying to be holy like God, but it wasn't working.**

Let's see what God says in the book of Leviticus. Read Leviticus 20:7–8. **God reminded His people that He is holy and that He is the only One who can sanctify them. Sanctify means "to cleanse and set apart as holy." The children of Israel were definitely not holy. Notice God's promise to take care of them, if the people followed His ways. Jesus hadn't come to the earth yet to take the punishment for sin. Instead, people in the Old Testament had to offer a sacrifice, such as the blood of a lamb or an ox, to pay for breaking God's laws.**

No one was perfect then, or today. We have all broken at least one of these laws, so we are guilty and should receive the punishment. The laws that God gave, showed that people aren't holy— they need a Savior. God, who is holy, made a plan that involved Jesus, and we read about it in the New Testament. What did Jesus do so we don't have to be punished? (Jesus was sinless and died on the cross. He rose again and took our punishment and paid the price for sin.) **Jesus is part of God, so He is also holy and has the power to take away sins. God did His part and showed love and grace to give us a way to be in a relationship with Him. We must do our part and respond with faith in Jesus forgiving our sins and setting us apart. We know that God wants us to be sanctified and made holy so that sin no longer keeps us from a relationship with Him. Let's say our memory verse together as proof that God loves us and wants us to be cleansed of our sins.** Recite 1 Peter 1:16 several times.

When we accept Jesus' offer of salvation, He sanctifies us, and God sees us as holy! When I was sanctified through Jesus, my face and body looked the same, but inside my spirit was cleaned of all the sin. God sanctified me and now, inside my spirit, I'm holy! Hold up the paper showing the side that didn't erase and then show the spirit side that is sanctified. **Everyone who believes in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins becomes sanctified!** Lead the children in giving a cheer. **When you invite Jesus to sanctify you and set you apart, you are following 1 Peter 1:16 by being holy. When Jesus sanctifies you, it doesn't mean you can go out and disobey God on purpose because your sins are forgiven. Instead, when you realize that your spirit is clean and holy, you are filled with a desire to follow God's ways because you love Him so much and are so thankful for all that Jesus did for you! As you learn more about Jesus setting you apart, you love Him more and spend the rest of your life looking more and more like Him! This week, what are some ways people will see that Jesus sanctified you?** (Possible answers: tell them, make choices to follow God's ways, through showing God's love by how I treat others) Allow time to minister to the children who want to follow the memory verse and place their trust in Jesus and be sanctified. Encourage children who are already sanctified

to remember that God's holiness is in them and to let others know how they can also be sanctified.

Bible Story Questions:

- **Did God give laws just to be mean?** (No, God gave laws to show that people can't be perfect like He is.)
- **If you keep the Ten Commandments, does that make you holy?** (No, no one can keep all the commandments and only God can make us holy.)
- **What is the only way to be sanctified, or made holy?** (The only way to be sanctified is to put your faith in Jesus and accept His forgiveness. People can't sanctify themselves—Jesus is the only One who can sanctify.
- **How does it make you feel to know that God wants you in a relationship with Him?** (Possible answers: great, excited to learn more about Him, eager to follow Him)
- **This week, if you break any of God's laws, does God take away His holiness from you?** (No, your spirit is holy and stays holy.)
- **Who do you know who you will tell about Jehovah M'Kaddesh?** Allow time for children to share.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Set two laundry baskets or boxes a few feet apart at the same end of the room. Divide the group in half to line up about 8–10 feet from the baskets. Give each group lots of paper to make paper wads. **These paper wads represent people. Some people try to sanctify themselves; they are the paper wads that don't make it into the basket. Other people trust in Jesus and God sanctifies them; they are like the paper wads that make it into the basket and are set apart. In our game, we will try to see how many paper wads can be set apart in the baskets.**

  *Depending on your group, either have the groups all throw at the same time while playing music and stop when the music stops. Or, have the first person in each line throw a paper wad and go to the end of the line and continue until time is called. This game can be a competition between teams, but it also is an opportunity to see that we are working together to help people hear and believe in Jesus. Each round played could be an opportunity together to see how many more can be set apart.

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids: ★
  Explore God's holiness through reading Isaiah 6:1-8 and John's revelation of the great throne room in Rev 4:1-11. Discuss why the holiness of God is an aspect of His glory, just as His glory is above all else, so is His holiness. Compare Isaiah's response to God's

holiness ("Woe is me") to how we respond. Also, look up the following verses to help children discover that sanctification comes from the Word of God (John 17:17), the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 6:11), and the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 9:22; 10:10,14).

Craft Ideas:

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Write "God is holy" on a large sheet of paper and cover it with wax paper. Have kids roll out playdough snakes shapes to make the letters in the phrase.

Worksheet:
Distribute the worksheets and encourage children to work in pairs. If there are not enough Bibles for the pairs, display the verses or write them on the board. Read through the words together. After a set amount of time, have everyone read the verses in the correct order and share the answers to the questions. If time allows, have the group turn over their papers and see how many words they can make using the letters in "sanctification."

Affirmation/Declaration:
I cannot be holy on my own.
When I believe Jesus forgives my sins—God sanctifies me.
I am set apart, and I want to be more and more like Jesus.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
Today, young people learn that truth is relative and if you don't define something as wrong or sin, it isn't sin or wrong for you. This worldview goes against God's holiness and His standard of righteousness. Children must recognize that only God has the authority as Creator to define sin and righteousness. God's Word clearly shows that He alone is holy, yet through Jesus, we can be set apart as holy. Encourage the children to live their biblical worldview as they show God's holiness in their lives by choosing to love and obey Him. During class time, as you notice children showing godly characteristics, mention that their good choices make them look like Jesus.

Missions Connections:
The world's religions don't offer a solution for people to become holy like their gods. Only Christianity offers a plan from God to be sanctified because God desires a relationship with people. Explain to the children the need to pray for people to hear the Good News about Jesus that can change their lives if they believe. Pray for the missionaries from your church to boldly tell people about Jesus.

Remind the children that when they say “yes” to Jesus they are part of the Great Commission to tell people about Jesus. Their mission field is anywhere their feet take them! Commission them this week to share about Jesus with their friends.

Family Connection:
Help your children understand that God’s love and sanctification can’t be earned. If you have household rules or a chores chart, talk about why there are rules and why there are consequences and rewards. This week, watch for ways your child obeys and point out how that is a choice to show that they are like Jesus. Then point to your child’s growth chart and say, “Your body is growing taller, and your spirit is growing more like Jesus!”

Prayer Points:
Model this prayer using scriptures from the lesson.

Dear God, thank You for being my Sanctifier. Thank You for being Holy and wanting a relationship with me. I believe that Jesus forgiving my sins is the only way for me to be holy. I choose to put my faith in Jesus and let Him make my spirit holy. In Jesus’ name, amen.

After volunteers pray, tell them, “I can tell you are set apart because you just sounded like Jesus.”

Name _____

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Use your Bible to number the words of the verse in the correct order. Beware, there are extra words. Then use the verses to answer the questions.

Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV) **19 words**

body	*By*	*sanctified*	*of*	*boy*	*Christ*	*of*	*we*
have	*all.*	*offering*	*God*	*Jesus*	*the*	*love*	*once*
good	*girl*	*been*	*the*	*will*	*for*	*that*	*through*

Who sanctifies us? _____

How many times do we need to be sanctified? _____

Who can be sanctified? _____

Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV) **13words**

offering	*He*	*Jesus*	*being*	*one*	*who*	*Heaven*
those	*by*	*perfected*	*cross*	*For*	*one*	*sanctified.*
sin	*Bible*	*forever*	*has*	*church*	*are*	*fun*

How many offerings need to be made? _____

How long does sanctification last? _____

BONUS: *On the back of this page, see how many words you can make using the letters in the word "sanctification."*

ANSWERS:

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Use your Bible to number the words of the verse in the correct order. Beware, there are extra words. Then use the verses to answer the questions.

Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV) **19 words**

13	1	7	11/14		16	11/14	4
body	By	sanctified	of	boy	Christ	of	we
5	19	10		15	9/12		17
have	all.	offering	God	Jesus	the	love	once
		6	9/12	3	18	2	8
good	girl	been	the	will	for	that	through

Hebrews 10:10 "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all."* (Extra words: God, love, good, girl, boy)

Who sanctifies us? Jesus Christ

How many times do we need to be sanctified? once *for all*

Who can be sanctified? we have been sanctified

Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV) **1 words**

4	5		12	3	10	
offering	He	Jesus	being	one	who	Heaven
9	2	7		1		13
those	by	perfected	cross	For	one	sanctified.
		8	6		11	
sin	Bible	forever	has	church	are	fun

Hebrews 10:14 "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." (Extra words: Jesus, cross, heaven, sin, Bible, church, fun)

How many offerings need to be made? one offering

How long does sanctification last? forever

BONUS: *On the back of this page, see how many words you can make using the letters in the word "sanctification."*

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