

## Conversation Starters

- Do you recall a time where you were just in a messy situation (tripped, food spill, etc.)?
- How hard was it to recover or clean or go back to normal living?

## Discuss

*So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:13-16 NLT)*

**We've all had or have messy lives or made poor choices and will likely again at some point in the future. It seems strange for us to even associate ourselves with the word holy, but Peter reminds us that we are supposed to be holy – unique, sacred, set apart, different.**

- Would you call yourself holy?
- Do you have trouble associating yourself with holiness?

**Why would Peter tell us to be holy then? He references a passage of Scripture in the book of Leviticus, where God issues a set of laws to His people with the goal of having purity or freedom from contamination and immorality that was happening in the world around them. He did this then and does today so that He can have relationship with us. He wants us to live different – free from sin - from how the world says we should live.**

- What influences from culture today make it difficult for you to live like God asks us to?
- How does culture influence us to focus more living right on the outside rather than inside?

**Holiness is not a status to attain. It is a state of being to maintain. A title that was freely given to those who have faith in Jesus. And it's not about perfection; it's about proximity. The power to be holy comes from an active relationship with Christ.**

*...He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5 NLT)*

- Have you accepted Christ as your savior and leader?
- How has your relationship with Christ been lately?
- Do you ever find yourself striving to be holy, instead of realizing that it was a gift to us?

**While we will not be perfect in the way that we live, we can always put forth effort to make the right choices when we have the opportunity. You cannot experience God's holiness and remain unaffected.**

- Are there some poor choices you have made that you wish you handled differently?
- How can you restore any relationships that have been harmed?
- What steps can you take today to turn from your old way of living?

## Next Steps

Reflect on your past week. Are there any "messes" that need cleaning up? Take the first step to achieve it and work at trying to live a holy life. If you don't know who Jesus is, begin exploring. Visit us on the weekends in person or online. You can also reach out to [churchoffice@mecklenburg.org](mailto:churchoffice@mecklenburg.org) for other resources on where to start.

## Pray

God, your holiness is hard to comprehend; we have such messy lives that it's hard to imagine. But we know what your Word says and who you are and for the grace that you give us and the holiness that you bestow on us. Thank you for that free gift. Thank you for Jesus. Help us as we strive to honor that gift and live the holy life that you call us to. Help us to examine our own life and take the next steps we need to clean it up.