

13 ESSENTIAL LESSONS

FOR YOUTH AGES

14-18

FROM THE

Conversational, experiential lessons reveal how the Old Testament narrative points to Jesus' redemptive mission—and how these ancient truths impact teenagers' everyday lives.

NO.

01

JESUS-CENTERED

100%

OLD TESTAMENT

- ☒ EASILY REPRODUCIBLE
- ☒ OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS
- ☒ FLEXIBLE FOR ANY SIZE GROUP
- ☒ WRITTEN USING THE NEW LIVING TRANSLATION
- ☒ ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

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13 Essential Lessons From the Old Testament

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13 ESSENTIAL LESSONS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

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HOW TO USE THESE LESSONS...

This collection of *13 Essential Lessons From the Old Testament* is a taste-test overview of crucial topics, threaded through a narrative that is always pointing forward to the Messiah. The lessons are structured simply, using an “inquiry based” method that maximizes conversation and engagement with your teenagers. This question-focused structure gives you the flexibility to tailor these lessons to your time slot, and go as deep as your group is able to go. We believe healthy discussion is essential to help students own their faith. Even more, you don’t have to be a theologian to lead these lessons. We’ve crafted them specifically to emphasize discussion and deeper connections among students. If you love God and love teenagers, you can easily lead these lessons.

Each lesson is built on Group’s REAL teaching imperatives: Relational, Experiential, Applicable, and Learner-based. Each week, your kids will build relationships with each other, and with God, through interactive experiences and challenging questions that will spur them to dig deeper. And every lesson is threaded-through with a Jesus-centered focus that reveals and elevates the Messiah, no matter what the topic or scriptural foundation. In addition, we include ideas for connecting what kids are learning to their everyday

lives with every lesson. The lecture (or “talk”) strategy that so many use as a default setting has proven to be the least effective way for people—not just teenagers—to learn. In fact, more and more learning experts are now branding the talking-at-you method so popular in churches as “educational malpractice.” With these lessons, you get a “best practice” approach that will plant growth in your students.

As an added resource, we’ve included a short “background” segment that will help you quickly get up to speed on the topic focus of each lesson. And we’ve included two suggested “Tweet-able” invitations you can send out to teenagers in advance of each lesson.

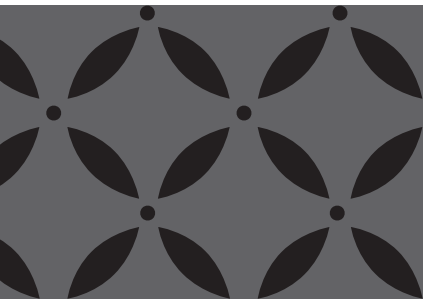
Now, just like that, you’re ready to lead these lessons. Follow the flow from start to finish, or cherry-pick the lessons that fit your scope. We’re so grateful you’ve picked up this resource, and honored to partner with you in your ministry to teenagers.

Grace,

Rick Lawrence

Editorial Director

Group/Simply Youth Ministry Resources



13 ESSENTIAL LESSONS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

LESSON

GOD IS HOLY

No.01

BIBLE VERSES

Isaiah 6:1-5 John 12:25-26
Romans 12:1 1 Peter 1:16

ACTIVITY

Ask: **How would you define the word “holy,” and why?**

After students answer that question, grab the supplies and cut open both pieces of chocolate.

Ask: **Which of these is the better illustration for what holiness is all about, and why?**

Say: **Holiness means you’re without blemish or sin; in other words, you’re pure. What you see on the outside is what’s on the inside. You’re the same all the way through. With the solid piece of chocolate, you can see that it’s the same on the inside and the outside. It’s complete and whole, all the way through. With the candy bar, you can see that the outside is covered in chocolate, but the inside is something different. When we talk about God’s holiness, we’re talking about this solid piece of chocolate: God is the same, complete and whole, all the way through.**

Things you need...

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ A solid piece of chocolate
- ☐ A chocolate-covered candy bar
- ☐ A sharp knife

DIGGING IN

Have someone read aloud Isaiah 6:1-5.

Say: **Let’s spend some time talking about the holiness of God.**

ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU NEED GOD

Say: **It might seem a little scary or intimidating to consider exactly how holy God is. But a deeper understanding of what “holy” really means can create a sense of wonder and a magnetic attraction to God, not a fear that he’ll strike us down or punish us. Even though we’re in a kind of prison because of our sin, we can be set free by Jesus when we acknowledge our need for him, and our need for forgiveness. When this happens, the sins that separate us from God are resolved by Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, and we can be in God’s presence without fear.**



BIBLE BACKGROUND

Read Isaiah 6:1-5.

A basic fundamental of the Christian faith is God's holiness. God is a perfect Creator who is without sin. God's holiness reveals our brokenness, showing us our need for a Savior. There are no shadows on the sun's surface, and there can be no sin in God's presence. However, we can stand in God's presence through the saving work of Jesus.

The prophet Isaiah receives a vision of what God looks like. He sees the incredible majesty and splendor of God's throne. In this Bible passage, we see that even the seraphim are unable to look at God because of his complete holiness. They fly around with their eyes covered. They're also constantly declaring how holy God is. It's as if God's holiness is so consuming, it's all you can think about when you're in his presence. When Isaiah sees this vision, he realizes how unworthy he really is in the presence of such a holy God.

Ask:

- Why do you think Isaiah was given this vision of God in heaven?
- When you read these verses from Isaiah, do you feel more or less able to actually relate to God? Explain.
- Why do you think Isaiah said he was doomed after he saw this vision?
- When have you felt both close to and far away from God? Explain.

BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS

Say: Jesus, who's perfect and without sin, gives us strength to overcome things in this life that pull us away from him. As we grow spiritually, getting to know Jesus more deeply and therefore becoming more like him, our thoughts and actions start to reflect the thoughts and actions of God, who is holy. Your inside starts to look more like your outside, and vice-versa.

Ask:

- As you've gotten to know Jesus, what's one way you've actually become more like him? What impact has this area of growth had on your overall life?
- What's one area where you want to grow but seem to be struggling to become more like Jesus? Why do you think it's such a struggle?

CONTINUE TO WALK WITH GOD

Say: Jesus wants all people to be in heaven with him for eternity. But he lets us choose whether we'll follow him and how we'll live. Jesus desires for us to continue walking with him throughout our lives. This means dying to self and becoming more complete as we mature spiritually.

Have someone read aloud John 12:25-26.

Ask: How can you practice these words from Jesus in your daily life?

DIGGING DEEPER

Ask:

- Holiness can be a tough concept to fully understand. Why do you think holiness is one of God's characteristics? What would happen to us if God weren't holy?
- Read 1 Peter 1:16. Why does God want you to be holy? If you think about holiness as working hard to be perfect, that seems hopeless. Why would God tell us to do something that seems impossible in our own strength?

Say: Jesus wants his followers to live holy lives. This doesn't mean being perfect, but allowing his work in our lives to make us more like him—more complete, inside and out.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Ask:

- What are some first steps you can take to make yourself more open to Jesus developing holiness in you?
- Read Romans 12:1. This verse says there's a connection between living holy and worshiping Jesus. Pause for a moment and meditate silently on this verse. Why is there a connection between holiness and worship?
- How have you felt encouraged by someone to live a holy life? What are some practical steps you can take to do the same for someone else?

THINGS TO REMEMBER



TEXTS & TWEETS

How do you define holiness?
Let's talk about it in real ways.
Can't wait to see you!

Yep, you can be holy the way
God is holy. Get ready to dig
deep, and bring a friend.

Make texting your group easier. Consider using Simply Text. To try it FREE go to <https://secure.symt.us/signup>



13 ESSENTIAL LESSONS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

If you liked doing these lessons from the Old Testament, then you'll love the next in the series. Available online and at your local Christian bookstore.

The book cover features a repeating pattern of stylized leaves on a grey background. A central white box contains the title and details. A black starburst in the bottom left corner says 'AVAILABLE NOW!'. A black box in the bottom right corner lists five features with checkmarks.

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FOR YOUTH AGES	Conversational and experiential lesson themes reveal the heart of Jesus, and how teenagers can live out a relationship with Him in everyday life.
14-18	
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No. 01
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13 ESSENTIAL LESSONS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Bring the Old Testament to life for students in a fresh way that ignites their passion for Jesus. Help your teenagers see how the entire Bible works together to create a perfect picture of God's loving character and his plan for redemption. They'll be on the edge of their seats as their eyes are opened to truths they've yet to discover. These 13 intentionally selected lessons build anticipation for Jesus' impending arrival through surprising stories packed with valuable wisdom.

ALL 13 LESSONS INCLUDE

- Brief overviews designed to help you prepare
- Primary and secondary Scripture references
- Open-ended questions for authentic discussions
- Objectives to help drive home what, why, and how
- Flexible guidelines with opportunities to go deeper

13 Essential Lessons From the Old Testament equips you to invite students on an exciting journey that increases their desire to go deeper with Jesus.



simply youth ministry
helping youth workers with what matters most

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