**He Is – Week 4 (Holy)**

**October 8-9, 2022**

What’s up, everybody?! Welcome to Northview Students and to Week 4 of our series called “He Is” where we are spending time looking at different qualities about God.

To start this message, I want to tell you something – I believe God has blessed all of us with incredible gifts and all of us have the opportunity to use them. Some people have rare qualities that make them unlike any other person in the world.

**(Teacher’s Note: Talk about…or make up…a quality that makes you unique! Ha!)**

Let me give you two examples of people with incredible qualities – Robert Wadlow is considered to be the tallest man who ever lived in modern history. There are no medical records of anyone taller than him. He was 8 feet 11 inches tall and by the time he was a 5th & 6th grader, he was already 7 feet tall! That would be awesome if someone was that tall here! Another man named Kim Peek had significant issues with his brain when he was born and the doctor told his parents, “Your son is severely disabled. He will never be able to learn, and you should probably put him in an institution and just forget about him.” By the time he was 2 years old, he was memorizing entire books. Before he passed away in 2009, he was considered to be one of the smartest people in the world. Everything he read, he could comprehend and remember with 98% accuracy. In fact, it was said he could read two pages of a book at one time – one page with his left eye and one page with his right eye. Oh, and by the way, he could do this IN 8 SECONDS!

These were two ordinary men with extraordinary abilities. I mean there are people you know who are tall and smart, but these guys are in a different league, aren’t they?! I share those examples to set up our next quality about God. What really makes God extraordinary – totally different than the rest of creation, including human beings! The Old Testament of the Bible contains a word that’s written to describe God over 350 times. That word is HOLY. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, and the word holy in Hebrew means, “sacred, set apart, or other.”

Our fourth week of this series is going to focus on how God is holy. Just like these superhuman guys I just mentioned, what makes God different or “other” from us? How is He so much bigger, better, more awesome, more incredible than anything else in this world?

So, here we go…here is our **THP (Take Home Point)** for today: **God is holy!**

Now I know the phrase “set apart” might seem like a weird way to say that God is holy, but I think there’s an event recorded in the Old Testament that really illustrates WHY and HOW God is holy. It comes from Isaiah 6:1-8. For some context, Isaiah is a prophet who shared messages from God to the kingdoms in Jerusalem and Judah. In this passage, he has a CRAZY experience with God. Let’s read it together!

*“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*

Isaiah sees just a GLIMPSE of God and it’s enough to crumple him to the ground and yell, “Woe is me!” Even these majestic, angelic beings called seraphim (the literal Hebrew translation of this word is “the fiery ones”) have to use their wings to cover their eyes and feet just to see and stand in the presence of God. In this ancient time period, a king’s importance or greatness was shown by how long the train of his robe was. Well, God’s robe filled the entire temple!

However, the most important thing of this whole passage is in verse 3. It’s what the seraphim are shouting to one another: *“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”* In the Hebrew context, when a person wanted to emphasize the importance of something, they would say it two times in a row. For example, when God talked to a man named Moses through a burning bush, He said his name twice like this, “Moses, Moses” or when Jesus meets a man named Saul (who was also called Paul) in the New Testament, He says, “Saul, Saul.”

There are only two times in the Bible where a word is used 3 times in a row to describe God…and it’s the word HOLY. This is only done if it is off-the-charts important! It is the MOST IMPORTANT quality about God. He isn’t just holy…He is HOLY HOLY HOLY! There is no one else and nothing else like Him. His presence is so powerful and so overwhelming that the ancient Hebrews feared they might die if they actually saw Him.

Some of you might be thinking, “Then why is God being holy a good thing? I don’t want to be afraid of God or of seeing God.” In the Old Testament, Proverbs 9:10 says this: *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”* A verse like that might make some of you think, “Why should we be afraid of God if He is good and loving?” Well, God is also so HOLY, HOLY, HOLY and so powerful that it should create such a sense of respect and awe that we fear Him.

In C.S. Lewis’s book, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe,* Aslan the lion represents the God-figure. The Pevensie kids (the main characters in the book) ask two beavers about Aslan. Look at their conversation

…*“Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he-quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"..."Safe?" said Mr Beaver ..."Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But He's good. He's the King, I tell you.”*

Did you catch that? Susan is nervous about meeting Aslan and asks if He’s safe. The beaver says he’s not safe – essentially saying Aslan is all-powerful, mighty, holy, unlike any other creature in Narnia. However, he then says Aslan is good.

Students, God is holy, but He is also GOOD! God shows up and talked to a prophet named Isaiah because He loved Isaiah and He had a plan for Isaiah’s life. Even though Isaiah felt completely unworthy to be in God’s presence (in fact, He’s terrified!), He is still willing to do what is asked of Him because he respects God so much. Isaiah would go on to share lots of messages from God to the people in Jerusalem and Judah. In fact, he will share prophecies with those people about a Messiah that will come and save people from their sins. That Messiah was Jesus.

Jesus Christ came into this world; this HOLY HOLY HOLY God in human form. He was and is set apart from everyone and everything else around Him. He was and is the most loving, most forgiving, most just, most merciful – He is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! There is no one like our God.

God didn’t just sit on His throne in heaven and act like He didn’t want to be around us. This HOLY HOLY HOLY God showed His goodness AND His holiness by doing the greatest act of love of all time: He sent His HOLY HOLY HOLY Son, Jesus, to sacrifice His life for an UNHOLY UNHOLY UNHOLY you and me!!

Our God bends down to wash our feet, helps those who are poor, gives second chances to people who don’t deserve them, and innocently died just so we can have a relationship with Him; one that will last for all eternity. This is what sets God apart…just like our **THP (Take Home Point)** said: **God is HOLY**. In fact, He is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!

Do you know this God? Do you have a relationship with Him? Do you know you can start one today? If you have one, but feel like you need to get re-focused and re-committed, did you know you can make that re-commitment today? Wherever you’re at in life today, I want you to have an opportunity to encounter this HOLY God.

**(Teacher’s Note: Set up prayer time with simple Gospel presentation, lead them in Gospel response prayer, and then close.)**

If you just said that prayer for the first time, this is your first step as a new follower of Christ. If you made a decision to re-commit your life to Christ, this is simply the next step in your faith journey. That is awesome! It is the best decision that you will ever make! I want you to do four things for me if you made that decision…

-Tell someone (family, friends, leaders)

-Text NVSNEXT to 85379 – that lets our Northview Students staff know so we can help

you in this new journey!

-Get a Bible! If you need one, tell your life group leader or contact the student pastor at the campus closest to you!

-Get baptized during the next baptism service! (For more info, visit northviewchurch.us)

If you ever need someone to talk to, our leaders at Northview Students are available to listen to you and help you in any way that we can. We love you guys! Enjoy your time of discussion and we hope you have a great week!