

★ *Virtue Reality Activity: Holiness* ★

n. 1. belonging to a sacred power 2. living according to a highly moral religious or spiritual system; saintly.

"I'm sure that holy people go to church and pray, and do all that stuff we think of when we hear the word 'holy.' But the people I know who to me seem very holy don't sit in church all day long. They are caring, they are compassionate, they just seem like they are working hard to do the right thing. But most of all, they have an inner peace about them—they shine from the inside, out."

How do you define "holy?" It is an interesting question to think about. Most of us would associate holiness with *doing* religious, churchy things—going to church a lot, praying a lot, and so forth. Holiness is bigger than our religious practices, though. Holiness is a connection with the divine—holy people try to become all that God intends for them to be. They try, every day, to know, love and serve God.

Talk about holiness in your household.

- ▶ What does it mean to say that someone is holy?
- ▶ What are qualities that a holy person might have?
- ▶ How can we help nurture holiness in our family?
- ▶ Why do you think holiness is one of the characteristics of the saints?

Create a list of things your family believes about holiness. We believe that holiness...

- ▶ Is having an attitude of reverence towards God and each other?
- ▶ Means we find time to connect with God through prayer and worship?
- ▶ Means that we try to live peacefully, and justly, and see God's presence everywhere.?

Create a list of ways your family wants to practice holiness, such as...

- ▶ Worshipping together
- ▶ Setting aside time to pray as a family and individually
- ▶ Helping each other find out what God intends for us: how does God want us to use the gifts he has given us to help the world be "heaven on earth?"

Talk about Jesus and holiness.

- ▶ Do you think holiness was an important virtue for Jesus? Why or why not?
- ▶ How can Jesus, as a model of what it means to be holy, help us be holy?

Read more about holiness in the Bible.

- ▶ The Lord of hosts is holy, and the earth is filled with his glory. Read Isaiah 6:3.
- ▶ Holiness belongs to God. Read Revelation 15:4.
- ▶ Christians who strive to serve God are holy. Read Romans 6:22.
- ▶ How a Christian leader should be. Read Titus 1:8.
- ▶ We work towards personal holiness gradually-with watchfulness, prayer, and perseverance. Read 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 4:23, 24.

A Family Prayer for Holiness

Most Holy God, you shower your grace and blessings upon us. Teach us to be holy. Teach us to know you, to love you, and to serve you. Help us be your holy people. Amen.