

Place the candles in a circle on the floor in your church sanctuary; then have your teenagers sit in a circle surrounding the candles. Hold the GOD card in your hand and **SAY: When you're given this card, tell the group about a time you experienced God's holiness. After you've shared, hand the card to someone who hasn't yet shared. I'll give you time to think, but if you haven't spoken within a minute or so after receiving the card, I'll ask if you'd like to pass.**

After students have shared, ask the group to stand up and follow you in single file. Tell them you're going on a hunt for holy places in your church. Wander throughout your church (classrooms, bathrooms, closets, offices, and so on) and end the hunt at the door to your sanctuary. Ask teenagers to sit where they usually sit during the worship service. (They'll probably spread out.) **ASK:**

- **What were you thinking when we started out looking for holy places in our church?**
- **What was the most holy place?**
- **Is this a holier place than other places in the church? Why or why not?**
- **What makes this place different than other places in the church?**
- **Do those differences dictate that we should act differently in this place than in other places, such as home or school? Why or why not?**

Ask teenagers to gather around the candles again. Have them each take a candle. Turn out the lights, and light your one candle. Read aloud Psalm 95:1-7. Pass the light to the person beside you, and have teenagers continue passing the light until all candles are lit. Then reread verses 6-7.

SAY: Let's be absolutely still. The psalmist tells us to bow down in worship and kneel before the Lord, because he is holy. Let's do that. (Ask everyone to get on their knees.) **The psalmist says we belong to God and God takes care of us. Think of your candle as God's light reflecting on you. What would you like to say to God at this moment? I'll start us off...**

When teenagers finish praying, ask them to sit in silence for one minute. At the end of the silence ask them to blow out their candles but keep absolutely quiet. Ask them to follow you in silence back to your meeting area.



DEVOTION

Holy Spotlight

Students will use flashlights to understand a small portion of what God's holiness may be like.

SUPPLIES: flashlights

TIME: 10 to 15 minutes

Have teenagers form new groups of eight or fewer, and have groups form circles on the floor. Set a flashlight with fresh batteries in the center of each group's circle. Tell groups not to touch their flashlights until you say it's OK.

(If your meeting room has windows, bring foil or some other light-blocking material to the meeting, along with tape. Then, before you lead teenagers in the activity, distribute the materials, and have them darken the room so that no light can get in. Also, if you're using more than five flashlights in this activity, you might consider sending some groups to other darkened rooms throughout the building. That way the light from all the flashlights won't diminish the "spotlight" effect on each participant.)

SAY: In a moment I'm going to turn out the lights so the room will be dark. Once I do, I want you to take turns sitting in the center of your circle while someone sitting in your circle shines the flashlight directly into your eyes. I want you to look briefly into the light while at least three of your group members share qualities they like about your personality. For example, they might mention that they like your sense of humor, your sensitivity, or your intelligence. Let's all focus on positive qualities only! We'll continue until everyone has had a turn in the center. Ready? Go!

After the experience, turn on the lights, and have teenagers find partners. Have partners discuss these questions:

- **What's your reaction to this experience?**
- **How did sitting in the center of the circle make you feel?**

- What did you think about having the light shine in your eyes? Explain.
- What was your reaction to being described while you stared into the light?
- How was looking into the light and being described similar to being confronted with God's holiness?
- If you really were confronted with God's holiness, how do you think you'd respond? Explain.
- What happened when you looked away from the light?
- How is that similar to what happens when we ignore God's holiness?

When pairs finish, call everyone back together into one group. Then **SAY: God is holy. And his holiness is hard to understand because it's a quality none of us has. God alone is holy. And we are made holy only through him.**

OBJECT LESSON

Take Time to Be Holy

Use aluminum foil to help students learn that God calls us to be holy.

SUPPLIES: Bibles, aluminum foil, markers

TIME: 10 to 15 minutes

SAY: Have you ever made an impression on someone? Has anyone ever made an impression on you? Today I'd like you to understand the impression God makes on each of us.

Give each student a sheet of aluminum foil. Ask students to place the foil on their faces and form it to their faces. Give students a minute to do this, and then have students share their creations.

(Aluminum foil has sharp edges. Remind students to be careful as they place the foil over their faces.)

SAY: You've just made an impression of your face. The foil isn't you. It looks a little like you, but it's not you. It's a representation of what you look like. It's an impression of who you are.

Distribute markers, and ask students to write their names on one side of the foil. Then have each

student trade his or her foil with another student. Instruct students to shape the foil to their faces. When students have done this and admired their creations, have each person return the foil to its original owner. **ASK:**

- What changed about your foil?
- What was the process you used to change the foil?

SAY: Even though the foil has the name of the original person on it, it bears the resemblance of someone else. That's like holiness. We all look like ourselves, but we bear a resemblance to God.

Have students form four groups (a group can be one person). Assign each group one of the following Scripture passages: Leviticus 20:7-8; Leviticus 20:26; Colossians 1:21-22; and 1 Peter 1:13-15. Ask groups to read their passages and decide what their passages say about holiness. Have each group share its findings with the entire class. **ASK:**

- What effect does striving for holiness have on our lives?
- What's the difference between God's holiness and our attempts to be perfect?
- Why is it important to recognize God's holiness?

SAY: Holiness is God's impression on us. While we still look physically like ourselves, God's call is to look like him in the ways we live and think. Spiritually we're called to be holy, just as God is holy. God wants us to follow him and be like him. He doesn't want us to conform ourselves to the standard that the world gives us—he wants us to conform ourselves to him.

Have students take their foil pieces and use them to make representations of areas in their lives in which they want to reflect God's holiness. For example, a student might create a pair of lips to represent a desire to clean up his or her language. When they're ready, encourage students to get in groups of two or three and share their shapes. When they're finished, ask groups to close in prayer.

NOTES
