

## Group Reflection Questions

1. What does “holiness” mean to you?
2. Have you ever had to follow God without having an understanding of why he is commanding something at the time?
3. What would it mean for you to live out holiness in every area of your life?
4. Have you ever made an excuse for not following God? When?
5. How do you live out “being *in* the world but not *of* the world?”

## **The Holiness Stream: Joseph** **Matthew 1:18-25**

Holiness is doing what God commands you to do when he commands you to do it. Joseph is a man of faith. He is not a man who plays around with theoretical ideas for hours on end. God says stick with Mary and he does! Have you ever noticed that none of Joseph’s words are recorded? God speaks and Joseph changes his mind immediately—he takes Mary to be his wife. God wants people who are faithful more than those who claim to have all the right ideas about Him. Living out faithful holiness pertains to the little decisions we make everyday in our life. It means that our natural reaction to situations become a Christ-like response—becoming a “little Christ” as C.S. Lewis puts it.

Throughout history there have been people who have focused particularly on holiness. Soon after the church became the official religion in the 300s, some men and women wondered how they could truly live in holiness when they were facing persecution. Within a few short years we see the first monks and nuns who wanted to separate in order to follow Jesus’ command to be holy.