

Lesson 9

Focus

GOD'S HOLINESS IS AWESOME

Overview

	Section	Students will . . .	Supplies
Pre-Start	Pre-Start Activities (15 minutes before class begins)	build relationships and have fun!	Pre-Start Activities (pp. 8, 9), SuperStart! DVD (Intro Loop), SuperStart! CD, CD and DVD players, TV or projection equipment
Large Group	Get-Started Activity (5 minutes)	think about the perfect birthday party.	SuperStart! DVD (Countdown), DVD player, TV or projection equipment
	Teaching Time (15 minutes)	discover that God's holiness is awesome.	SuperStart! DVD (Sticky Situations Game Show Clips, Lesson 9), DVD player, TV or projection equipment, Bible
	Worship (10 minutes)	praise God for His awesome holiness.	SuperStart! CD, CD player
Small Group	Scripture Study (15 minutes)	study the Scripture to learn that God's holiness is awesome.	<i>SuperStart!</i> magazines, Bibles, paper, pencils or pens (optional: Bible concordances)
	Scripture Memory Discovery (5 minutes)	learn Psalm 145:1-7.	Bibles (optional: <i>SuperStart!</i> magazines, highlighters)
	Life Application (5 minutes)	share about last weeks' challenge and discuss a challenge for this week.	paper, pencils or pens
	Recap (5 minutes)	be reminded that God's holiness is awesome.	none
Extra Time	Extra-Time Activities	further explore the lesson.	Unit 3 Extra-Time Activities (p. 64)

Theme

The Psalms: A Study of God

Big Question

How Big Is God?

Scripture

The Psalms

Scripture Memory

Psalm 145:1-7

Things to do ahead of time:

1. Set out the supplies for the Pre-Start Activities.
2. Collect supplies for the small groups. Put the supplies in sets, one for each small-group leader.
3. Make sure the DVD and CD players and projection equipment are cued and ready to go.

Pre-Start

(15 minutes before class)

Choose several of the Pre-Start Activities for students to do as they arrive. You can play songs from the CD and show the DVD Intro Loop as students have fun and interact with the volunteers.

Large Group

(30 minutes)

Get-Started Activity, Teaching Time, Worship

Get-Started Activity (5 minutes)

Play one of the Countdowns when you are ready to begin the Get-Started Activity. Ask students to form groups of three or four and discuss what the perfect birthday party would be like. After a few minutes of discussion, let a spokesperson from several or all of the groups describe the perfect birthday party.

Teaching Time (15 minutes)

Prepare students for the video by saying, **As much as we plan and prepare, nothing ever goes perfectly—not birthday parties, not school projects, and not even game shows. We've been watching video clips of a fun game show called Sticky Situations. Someone showed a blooper tape of Eric, the game show host, during the video shoot for the Sticky Situations Game Show. Today, you get to see the blooper tape that caused such a big problem.**

Show the video clip.

After the video clip, ask these questions and solicit one or two answers for each:

- **What kinds of problems was Eric having?** *(He messed up some of his words. He forgot some of his lines.)*
- **Do you think more practice would make Eric a perfect game show host? Why or why not?** *(yes, practice makes perfect; no, no matter how hard people practice, we will never be perfect)*

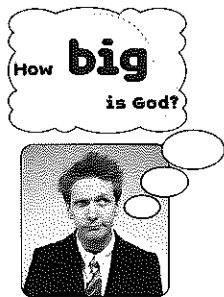
Ask groups of three or four to see if they can find anything that they're wearing or brought with them in their pockets that's perfect. Have them share with another group one thing they think is perfect to see if the other group agrees that it's perfect. There will be imperfections in anything they have: coins and jewelry will have scratches, clothes will have loose threads or stains or rips.

Supplies

Pre-Start Activities (pp. 8-9)
SuperStart! DVD Intro Loop
Countdown: Sticky Situations
Game Show Clips, Lesson
W SuperStart! CD, DVD and
CD player, TV or projection
equipment, Bible

Before Class

On the CD is a Big Question poster and a Scripture Memory poster for Unit 3 and Eric's photo. You may want to print and display these in your area. You can display the Big Question poster above Eric's photo, as shown below.



- **Is there anything that's perfect or anyone who's perfect?** (*no, nothing's perfect; yes, God*)
- **What are some other words that mean perfect?** (*totally right, faultless, exact, complete*)

God is perfect. That means He's totally right; He's faultless. God is also holy. When the Bible says that God is holy, that means He is 100% good, perfect, pure, and can't have anything to do with sin.

It's hard to imagine anyone who's never wrong, never makes a mistake, is always pure, and is always good. But God is all those things and more! Ask a volunteer to come to the front and read Psalm 77:12, 13. Ask the volunteer what these verses tell us about God.

Ask the students to stand. Tell students to think about God's holiness. **If a perfect, holy God loves some people better than others, sit down. If a perfect, holy God sent His Son to die on the cross for everyone, stay standing. If a perfect, holy God says that some sins are OK, sit down. If a perfect, holy God made a way for all of us to live with Him in Heaven, stay standing. If a perfect, holy God deserves our praise and worship, stay standing. If a perfect, holy God hates sin and rescues people from it, sit down.** Students should not sit down until the last sentence.

Who is as great as our God? No one! GOD'S HOLINESS IS AWESOME.

God is so big that we are in awe of Him. That means that we can't help but be in wonder and amazement at such a big God who is totally and completely perfect, good, and holy. We can praise and worship our big, holy God. As it says in Psalm 99:3, "Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy."

When I think of God's holiness and goodness in comparison to myself, well, there's not much to compare. I'm far from always being holy and good. I've also got a long way to go in the perfection department. But then I remember that God made me, He's done a lot for me, and He thinks I'm pretty cool. That's really awesome!

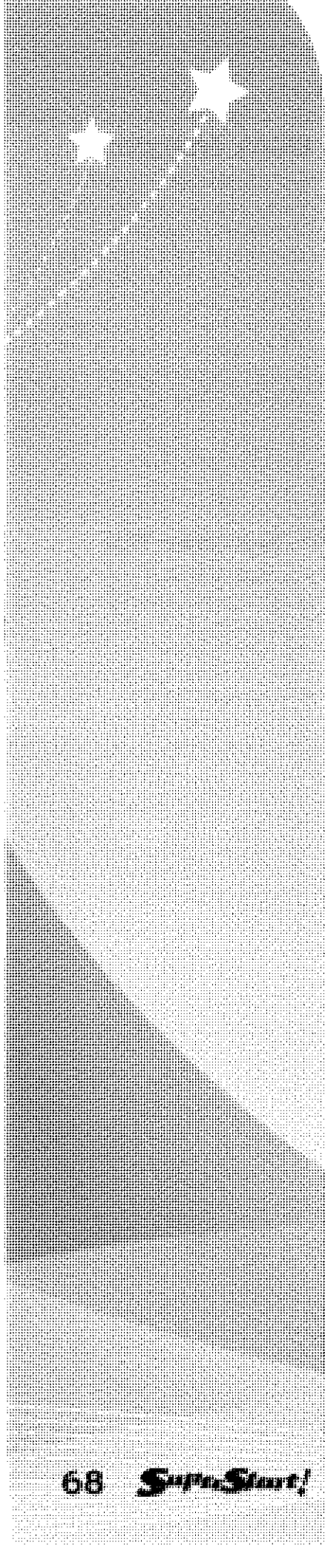
For several weeks, we're going to ask the question, "How big is God?" Now that's a big question. This week we're learning that GOD'S HOLINESS IS AWESOME. His holiness is so big that when we think about it, we are in awe or wonder. When we're in awe of something, we say it's awesome. It's pretty safe to say that GOD'S HOLINESS IS AWESOME, don't you think? The book of Psalms in the Bible is full of praises to God's holiness and that's where we'll look today to learn more about His holiness.

Bible Insight

The book of Psalms is full of references to God's holiness and how we are to respond to His holiness. *Holy* means "to be set apart from all that is evil, sacred, exalted, worthy of devotion, pure and clean." Holiness is one of God's essential attributes.

Teacher Tip

If you have time and would like to add more thoughts from Scripture, see these passages: Psalm 99:1-5; Psalm 105:1-3; Psalm 111:7-9. You can also use thoughts from Psalm 145:1-7, t Scripture memory for the unit.



Worship (10 minutes)

Ask students to join you in praising God for His awesome holiness. Lead in two or three songs from the CD, especially “God Is With Us.”

Lead in prayer by saying two or three sentences thanking God because His holiness is awesome.

Have students go to their small groups to go deeper into God’s Word and for relationship building.

Q&A with Eric

If you have time, there are three fun review questions on the DVD for this lesson (Q&A with Eric, Lesson 9). You can pretend you’re doing your own Sticky Situations Game Show by choosing one boy and one girl to be the contestants, or have the boys compete against the girls. Pause the DVD player after each question so students can answer. You can use this fun video clip in lots of ways: at the end of the large-group time, at the end of the small-group time while you’re waiting for parents to arrive, just before the lesson Recap in the small-group time, or during the Pre-Start Activities. It’s one more fun way to help students remember the important concepts in the lesson.

Review Questions

1. Eric’s blooper tape showed him
 - a. **messing up his words.**
 - b. eating on the set.
 - c. wearing a dress.

2. God’s holiness is
 - a. **awesome.**
 - b. scary.
 - c. a secret.

3. God is holy because
 - a. He’s full of holes.
 - b. He’s really cool.
 - c. **He’s really good.**

Small Group

[30 minutes]

Scripture Study, Scripture Memory Discovery, Life Application, Recap

Scripture Study (15 minutes)

Hand out the *SuperStart!* magazines and have students turn to pages 20 and 21. Have students look at the different definitions on the map and talk about which one is the right definition of the word *holy*. Then ask each student to look up one of the Scriptures that's on the map to find out something about God's holiness. [Psalm 25:8, 9—*God is good and upright*. Psalm 29:2—*People worship God's holiness*. Psalm 77:13—*God's ways are holy*. Psalm 99:3, 4—*People praise God because He's holy*. *God loves justice*. Psalm 100:5—*God is good*.] If you have more than five students, let some students work in pairs. Have students share what they found out about God's holiness.

Ask the following questions. Encourage all students to participate and be sure to give students time to think about the questions.

- **Since we know that God is holy, what does that mean about Him?**
(He's good, pure, perfect, loving, can't have anything to do with sin, forgiving, right)
- **How does it feel to know that you're loved by a holy God?** *(good, a little scary)*
- **Since God is holy, what does that mean about everything He does?**
(He's only going to do what's right and good.)
- **Why does God's holiness matter to you?** *(It means I can trust Him. Since I'm trying to be like God, I should do my best to be good, pure, loving, and forgiving.)*

Hand out paper and pencils or pens. Ask students to write their own short psalms about God's awesome holiness to offer as prayers to Him. Give students time to write and then silently pray their psalms to God.

Supplies

SuperStart! magazines, Bibles
(For students who didn't bring one), paper, pencils or pens
(optional), Bible concordances,
(optional)

★ Teacher Tip

If you have time, challenge students to use Bible concordances to find more psalms that tells of God's holiness.



Optional Activity

Have students turn to "Get Into It" (Psalm 145:1-7) on page 12 in their magazines. Ask students to highlight all of the words that describe how big God is. Have students read aloud just those words. Talk about what those words mean and what they say about God.

Reminder

Last week, students were challenged to help others make peace and pray for God's peace. Celebrate with those who have a good report. Encourage, don't embarrass, those who either forgot or who didn't have a good experience.

Collect the *SuperStart!* magazines for use in the following weeks.

Scripture Memory Discovery (5 minutes)

Our Scripture memory for the next several weeks is Psalm 145:1-7.

Have students find these verses in their Bibles. Ask for volunteers to read aloud the verses.

- **What words describe how big God is?** (*great, mighty acts, majesty, wonderful works, power, awesome works, great deeds*)
- **What words describe God's holiness?** (*abundant goodness, righteousness*)

David, the writer of this psalm, praises God for being a big God. David worships God and celebrates and sings about His holiness. That's something we can do too. Challenge students to mark Psalm 145:1-7 in their Bibles, read it every day this week, and work on memorizing it.

Life Application (5 minutes)

Ask students to share how their challenge from last week went. Get their ideas about what they can do this week to praise and worship God for His awesome holiness. Two ideas would be to keep a list of all the ways they see God's holiness or how they praise and worship God for His holiness. Give each student a sheet of paper and pencil or pen. Give students a few minutes to start making a list of ways they have already seen God's holiness or ways they have already praised and worshiped God for His holiness. Offer a small reward next week for those who bring back their lists with several things written on them.

Recap (5 minutes)

Today we've learned that GOD'S HOLINESS IS AWESOME. We can't totally understand how holy God is, but thinking about it helps us stand in awe of God and praise and worship Him. Give a personal example of how God showed you His holiness or how you praised and worshiped God for His holiness. **God is such a big God. No one is as great or holy as our God!**

Extra Time

As you have time, let students participate in one or more of the Extra-Time Activities on page 64.