

Centuries of Strife

A Holy Healthy Church (October 18th, 2020)

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-2 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to sacrifice Himself on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another, just as you have loved us. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to remind us of the spiritual victory we have over sin in Jesus Christ! Pray that the Spirit would help us find the right words to speak, new opportunities to serve our neighbors, and continue to transform us into the likeness of Jesus!

Discussion: (45-60 minutes)

What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the second week of our new series titled *Centuries of Strife*. Pastor Danny focusses our attention to *Acts 5* and the story of Ananias and Sapphira to reveal how seriously God takes sin within His church body. Pastor Danny encourages us as a church to confess and repent from our own sin while we humbly learn how to confront the sin of others in the church. Through this encouragement, Pastor Danny highlights the importance of remembering that God dwells inside of the people of His church and how we are called to the beautiful work of keeping His church healthy and Holy together united in the power of the Holy Spirit!

“Sin in our church is a ticking time bomb waiting to destroy us all...If there is sin in your life, repent and experience the beauty of restoration. If your brother or sister falls into sin, confront their sin in humility and fear.” – Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

Check-In: Icebreaker – What is the most embarrassing mistake you have ever made? How were you able to recover from it?

Study Tip: This week we will be talking about the holiness of God! I can't think of a better description of holiness than what the Bible Project has done with their videos. As you walk through the study guide this week, reflect on what it means for you to be a temple of the *Holy* Spirit and the implications of the fact that the church is the place where God dwells and interacts with His people!



Objective #1: Identify sin within the church / within your own heart.

Primary Texts: Romans 1:18-32; Galatians 5:13-21; 1 Peter 5:8 – Pastor Danny begins by stating that, “sin in our church is a ticking time bomb waiting to destroy us all.” If we say we are a part of the church, then this must also include our own sin. **Have you experienced any areas of sin within our church? If so, how do you feel about the approach to the situation? What areas of sin come to your mind that might be a *ticking time bomb* in your life?**

Objective #2: Point out the specific obstacles to confronting sin in the church / confession and repentance.

Primary Texts: Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Titus 3:10-11; Romans 7:21—8:2– Next, Pastor Danny uses the story of Ananias and Sapphira to point out the seriousness of sin within God's community. Pastor Danny encourages us to use our feelings of sorrow or guilt as motivation to *confess* our sins to God and *repent* knowing that there is no condemnation for those who are in Jesus. **What are some of the obstacles you face when it comes to confessing your sins and repenting? What about when it comes to confronting sin in the church?**

Supporting Texts: Genesis 19:15-26 (Lot's Wife); 2 Samuel 6:5-11; 1 Chronicles 13:9-10 (Uzzah)

Objective #3: Explore your role in the process of making the church healthy and holy.

Primary Texts: Numbers 3:5-10, 4:15; Acts 4:32-36 — Finally, Pastor Danny points out that when God instantly puts someone to death or allows someone to fall away from the church, it is because they get too close to something that was holy in their sin. Since the church is where God's holy presence dwells, Pastor Danny urges all of us to repent from our sinful ways and confront the sins of our brothers and sisters with fear and humility. **What are some of the things that God might be leading you to do so that we as a church can come together to do the beautiful work of keeping our church healthy and holy?**

Closing Prayer: (5-10 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank our Heavenly Father for sending His son to die for our sins and release us from the bondage of our spiritual enemy! Ask that the Holy Spirit would continue to equip us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus in the various situations of conflict and strife that we may face. Finally, pray that we as a church would unite as a people who are *known by* our love for one another as we humbly seek to resolve our internal issues and learn how to grow closer to you through them.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-**Welcome Back!:** We would love to have you *safely* join us for one of our three in-person services (9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.). Reserve a ticket each Wednesday starting at 9:00 am by visiting our [Welcome Back Website](#)

- **Fall 2020 Daily Reader:** Interested in diving deeper? You can spend the next 8 weeks walking with us through the entire Bible as you to put on your kingdom lens through this difficult season! You can find the daily reader at [3Crosses.org/fall2020](https://3crosses.org/fall2020)

-**Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities:** Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

- **Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Pray that the members of your group would begin to seek resolution to conflicts in their lives!

-**Community Group Fall 2020:** For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org