

# Tuesdays Table

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## Holiness? Really?

The purpose of this resource is to help guide your engagement of the “Tuesdays at the Table” conversation. This is merely a frame for the conversation you’ll have or the raw materials to shape a conversation unique for the table you’re sitting at.

As you participate in the conversation...

- **Keep an open mind.**
- **Stay curious.**
- **Look for new ideas.**
- **Speak from your heart.**
- **Respect the ideas of others.**

Access a video of the “Holiness? Really?” conversation [here](#).

## **You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.**

Leviticus 19:2 (NRSV)

### **Let us pray.**

Dear Jesus, Help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go.

Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.

Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly,

that my life may only be a radiance of Yours. – “The Fragrance Prayer” (Saint John Henry Newman)

### **Guiding questions.**

- What does holiness mean?
- How does holiness relate to justice?
- How can interaction with others help make you holy?
- According to Dr. Field, the four modern-day elements of holiness are justice, compassion, integrity and solidarity. Which one do you consider key to ministry and justice and why?
- What is the connection (or distinction) between personal and social holiness?
- John Wesley said, “There is no holiness but social holiness.” What does his statement mean to you?
- What are the connections between holiness and sanctification?
- What does it mean to pray if prayer is not just about the words but chasing after the fulfillment of those words?
- Where do you see holiness transforming the broader church? How does grace enable us to grow in holiness?
- How might holiness look different in different cultural contexts?
- Where have you seen one person’s understanding of holiness harm another person’s understanding of holiness?

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## **Take action.**

- Holiness can be described as not just being charity but working in solidarity with others. How can you enter into a cultural context beyond your own and work for justice, beyond supporting the entities who do that work regularly? See if there's a partner in your group who is also interested and schedule space to do that work.
- Dr. Field shares that he came to study and revere the concept of holiness as a teenager. Who is a young person you know that demonstrates a passion for justice and a growth in faith? Send them a note of encouragement or invite them for coffee to learn how they understand their role in the world.
- John Wesley said, “[God] placed you in this world... not as a proprietor, but a steward.” He details three rules for the use of money: gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can. How does your use of money reflect a life striving for holiness? Find a way your small group can engage a local non-profit or congregation as a witness to Christian holiness in action.

## **Resources.**

“Catholic Spirit” (Sermon 39) by John Wesley

*Plain Account of Christian Perfection* by John Wesley

“United Methodist Beliefs: Social Holiness” video by UM Communication with Rev. Susan Henry Crowe (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-beliefs-social-holiness>)

“The Use of Money” (Sermon 50) by John Wesley