



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

WHEN: SATURDAY OCTOBER 18TH 10AM-NOON	WHERE: ST ANNE ASSEMBLY ROOM	BOOK SELECTION: LIFE AND HOLINESS BY THOMAS MERTON
For more information, please contact Sharon Cercone at sharon.cercone@gmail.com or Tamara Smith at tamarasmith5@gmail.com		

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please select one question from each category to discuss.

General Reflection

- WhatdoesMerton say holiness truly is? How does his definition challenge or expand your previous understanding of holiness?Merton emphasizes that all people are called to holiness. What are the implications of this for everyday life? Do you find this idea empowering, intimidating, or something else?
- How does Merton balance action and contemplation in the Christian life? Where do you see yourself on that spectrum?

Themes for Discussion

- Holiness in the Modern World: What obstacles to holiness does Merton identify in modern life? Do you see these challenges in your own experience?
- Love as the Foundation of Holiness: Merton says that love—especially love of neighbor—is the core of a holy life. How does this differ from more legalistic or perfectionistic ideas of holiness?
- Freedom and Obedience: Merton speaks of Christian freedom as being found in surrender to God. How does this paradox make sense (or not) in your own spiritual journey?
- Spiritual Growth and Humility: How does Merton describe spiritual maturity? What role does humility play in holiness?

Personal Application

- What part of the book felt most relevant or convicting to your life today? Was there a passage or idea that stayed with you after reading?
- Merton stresses that holiness is not heroic achievement, but grace-filled response. How might this perspective change the way we approach our spiritual goals or struggles?
- How can we cultivate holiness in daily life? What habits, relationships, or mindsets could help us live more fully in the direction Merton describes?

Group and Community Focus

- How can this book shape the mission or identity of our book club/church/fellowship? Are there practices we could take on as a group?

