



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: 1 John 2:15-17

Sermon Summary:

In this section John uses the word 'world' SIX times! His main point is, "Do not love the world." But what world is he talking about? In Scripture, 'world' can mean the earth (Ac. 17:24), people (Jn. 3:16), & the evil, anti-God system that enslaves people (1 Jn. 2:15). The latter one is what John points to when he says, "Do not love the world." Once we have been emancipated from this system, if we are not careful, we can find it affecting our fellowship with the Father. What antidote does John prescribe for believers to guard them against the influence of this system? Love the Father! Nurture that love slowly, over time, & through the many situations of life. As we do so, our trust in the Father will grow & develop, & it will safeguard us to stay true to him as we journey on in this world.

Discussion:

1. Look at the three different ways that the word 'world' is used in Scripture: planet (*Acts 17:24; Jn. 1:10; 17:5; 1 Jn. 3:17; 4:17*), people (*Jn. 3:16; 12:19; 1 Jn. 2:2; 3:1*) & evil, anti-God system (*Jn. 12:31; 15:19*;

- 1 *Jn. 5:19; 2:15, 17*). Talk about a time when the system distracted you from following God.
2. What danger do you think John wanted to safeguard the believers from when he said, “*Do not love the world*”?
 3. Why does John put loving the world & loving the Father as opposites in v. 15? Talk about what you do to nurture your love for the Father.
 4. Talk about the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes & the pride in one’s possessions. Why are these categories so helpful to our understanding of the world?
 5. Why is 2:17 so important to our understanding of where our love should land?
 6. Read the following quote from Karen Jobes: “*People who reject the knowledge that ‘God is light’, reject God’s sovereign prerogative to define the standard of human values & morality. Even if not an atheist at the philosophical level, anyone who rejects God’s rule of life in some aspect of their behaviour is to that extent an atheist in practice.*” How do Karen’s words strike you?

End with Prayer.

- Pray for each one to continually be nurturing our love for the Father
- Pray for one another’s concerns.