



You Can Have This World — Give Me Jesus

1 John 2

Small Group Plan

John's gospel says, "God so loved the world" (3:16), but his first letter says, "Do not love the world" (2:15). So, which is it and what is "the world?"

- ✓ Is it the planet we live on?
- ✓ Is it the people who live on the planet?
- ✓ Is it the values of the people who live on the planet?

Depending on our answer, we will love the world or not. So, be careful.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- If "the world" represents the values of our planet, how do you explain its attraction?
- How does God love the world?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

DON'T LOVE THE WORLD

— **Because Of Who You Are** —

1 John 2:12-14

¹² I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³ I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. ¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- “Children” “fathers” “young men” — Do you think these are three groups of people, three stages of growth, or something else? Explain.
- What are the tactics of “the evil one” and why do they work?
- Three time John says “have known him (the Father)” — What does this mean and why is it important?
- Twice John says — “You have overcome the evil one” — What is the source of our victory over “the evil one” and how does it work?

DON'T LOVE THE WORLD
— Because Of What The World Is —
1 John 2:15-16

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.

- What does it mean to “love the world” — what does it look like in a person’s life?
- What are “cravings” and what happens when we “love” them?
- What is “lust” and what happens when we “love” it?
- What is “boasting” and what happens when we “love” it?

DON'T LOVE THE WORLD
— Because Of The End Of The Story —
1 John 2:17

*The world and its desires pass away,
but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

- How does the temporariness of the world affect its desirability?
- Since everyone knows that death is inevitable and that we will leave everything behind, why do so many still hoard the world’s wealth and pursue the world’s values?
- How can the endlessness of life in God redefine the meaning of our wealth and possessions?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Which stage of growth (new-born, developing, mature) are you in and what are your responsibilities as you live through this stage?
- What part of the “world” pulls at you the most?
- How are you defending against it?
- What would help you to resist?
- Close by asking God for the strength to overcome the three enemies of verse 16.