

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 15 minutes

1. What about your identity in Christ do you tend to forget? How can you better remember these truths?
2. Why is love for the world so destructive for the Christian?
3. Think about the things that tempt you away from walking with God. What can you do to reduce their influence? What can you do to counter their influence?

Do Not Love the World
1 John 2:12-17

1. The Church View
(1 John 2:12-14)

2. God's will vs. Way of the World
(1 John 2:15-19)

Psalm 73:25-28

*²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
²⁷ For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
²⁸ But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord God my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.*

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Lord, thank you for reminding me of who I am in Christ – forgiven, victorious, strengthened and known by the God of all. Diminish my desires for the things of the world; reduce their influence on my heart and help me to love You with all my being.

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of May 14, 2017

Getting StartedGroup time - 20 minutes

1. What do you see as the primary sources of influence in American culture?
2. What are some of the influential events in your life that have helped shape your identity?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read 1 John 2:12-14

1. List out the reasons that John is writing to each group. What purpose does John have for telling them these things?

Little children:

Fathers:

Young men:

2. John may be addressing different stages of maturity in the Christian faith. As we grow, how does our understanding of our identity in Christ also grow?

Read 1 John 2:15-17

3. What does John mean when he tells us not to love the world? If we do love it, what does that say about us?
4. Looking at verse 16, how does John describe the actions and attitudes of the world? What does he mean by these phrases?
5. According to verse 17, why is it foolish to love the world rather than the Father?

Read Philippians 3:12-21

6. How would you describe the Christian life to which Paul calls us?
7. According to this passage, on what should the Christian be focused? What does Paul say could get in the way?