

life groups

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study

Week of November 12, 2017

Sermon: 1 John—Remain in a Settled Love with the Father



Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **High/Low**. This is a good warm-up for groups that have become familiar with the other members. **Instructions:** Each member simply shares their high (best moment) and their low (not-so-best moment) for the week.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN **1 John—Remain in a Settled Love with the Father**

- First John is full of practical tips on how to live for Christ in an increasingly materialistic world, and how to maintain your convictions—and pass them onto your children—when the culture around you is loaded with lust for sex, fame, and deceit.

Q1. What are the characteristics of a best friend?

- Lazarus was one of Jesus' closest friends. The Apostle John was one of his best friends: "John the Beloved."
- History tells us John was boiled alive and lived. He was then exiled to an island where Jesus gave him the book of Revelation.

1 JOHN 1:3 TLB "Again I say, we are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard..."

- John says, "Hey! I personally met with Jesus! And what I'm telling you came straight from Him!"
 - › He was 80-100 when he wrote this book. Grandpa John, a legend in the Christian community, is now at the end of his life, pouring out Jesus' love on the community.

HAVE SOMEONE READ **1 JOHN 2:15-17**

- We can waste a lot in life: time, money, our gifts and talents.
 - › You can also waste your love by loving things that won't last.

1 JOHN 2:15 "Do not love the world or anything in the world."

- The term "world" means the world's system. The way the world does life...worldliness.
 - › Then he mentions three areas: "...the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." These are the three areas Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness.

1. DON'T LEAVE HIM WITH THE LUST OF THE FLESH

v.16 "For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the

lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.”

- Adam and Eve were in the perfect place with the Father. They had everything they needed, so how did they mess this up?
 - › Same way we do: The best place is here with Him, but we lust for something “out there.”

Q2. What area of your life are you currently struggling with trusting God in and why? Do you feel like you’re living your life in step with Him, or dragging behind Him, or maybe running ahead of Him?

- God says remain with me.

JOHN 15:4 “Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”
- The enemy is always trying to get you to go somewhere else.
 - › When you are emotionally tired and physically spent, he offers you a quick ticket to another place.
- Satan told Jesus to turn stones into bread, to relieve His hunger.
 - › Jesus had the ability to do this, but he would have messed up his Father’s plans, as his gifts were not for his benefit but for others.
 - › The biggest temptation of our lives is to take our strengths, God-given gifts and talents—what we are enabled by God to do—and use them only to benefit ourselves.
 - › The more we gratify our flesh, the less we are satisfied by the flesh. The more you get, the more you crave.

2. DON’T LEAVE HIM WITH THE LUST OF THE EYES

v.16 “For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.”

- Open your eyes and see what Jesus sees: harvest.

JOHN 4:35 “Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”
- Lust: I See it, then I want it.
 - › University of Toronto calls today the age of Narcissism, because we are taking pictures of what we love the the most – ourselves.
- Andy Stanley once said, “We live in the land of Ur.”
 - › I want to be better (‘bettur’) than you, greatur than you, smartur than you. As long as I’m funniur than you or richur than you, then

I am content.

Q3. Where do your eyes have the best chance to destroy you?

- John tells us 40 different times in 5 chapters of this book to love each other.

3. DON'T LEAVE HIM THE PRIDE OF LIFE

1 JOHN 2:15-17 (MSG) “Don’t love the world’s ways. Don’t love the world’s goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.”

- The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes are about getting something you *don't* have.
- The pride of life is about what you *already have*: your accomplishments, your children’s accomplishments, your accolades, merit, deeds, the size of your bank account.
- Nothing you achieve or have impresses God, and pride keeps you from enjoying what He’s given you for His glory, because it becomes all about you. It’s an empty way to live.

HOW DO WE SET OUR HEARTS RIGHT AGAIN... IT’S PERSPECTIVE:

V.17 “The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”

- The world and its desires are passing away.
- Everything we have will be set on fire. The only things we take to heaven with us are the Word of God and the People of God.

Q4. How are you doing in the areas of honoring God with your time, your money, your gifts, and your talents? What one percent adjustment could you make this week?

Q5. Is there anything you’re going after that you need to drop?

Q6. What is the next step the Lord is encouraging you to take?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please refer to your local campus worship guide for relevant announcements.