



Watch the Sermon



Read the Scripture



Submit a Prayer
Request



Don't journey alone!
Join a Small Group



Need Information
or Help?

Opening Questions

- What is one of the biggest media/cultural influencers in your life?
- Read Romans 12:2 – how do you sometimes feel “squeezed” into the mould of this world?

Read Together

1 John 2:15

Big Idea

Don't fall in love with the world... you're made for better

Discussion Questions

1. What exactly is this “world” we are not supposed to love? How have you wrestled through understanding this in the past? How would you define/explain it to someone?
2. What in the world is wrong with the world? John gives three answers in our passage:
 - a. What the world offers is incompatible with the fathers way (v.15)
 - What are some examples of this incompatibility?
 - b. The world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, craving for all we see, and pride in what we have (v.16).
 - What are some examples of this craving? How do you see it in our city? In our church?
 - c. This world is fading away along with everything that people crave... its passing away and heading towards destruction.
 - Are there examples of this “fading away”?
3. The Law of Diminishing Returns – How have you experienced this in your life?

Take a moment (5-10 mins), individually, silently, to pray and ask God to speak to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you and show you the answers to the questions below:

4. Our passage lays out three ways in which we can tend to love this world. **How do YOU tend to love this world?**
 - a. Craving for physical pleasure... dominated by the senses (lust of the flesh) 1 Cor 6:18, Eph 5, Coll 3.
 - b. Craving for everything we see and desire... wanting more, having to have, desire to possess all we see, coveting to possess what we do not have (lust of the eyes).
 - c. Pride in our achievements and possessions... arrogance, elitism, over confidence, notion that we are no longer dependent on God because we are enough – Jeremiah 9:23-24

Share what God spoke to you. Share what you are convicted of. Be open about the influencers in your life, and the cultural/worldly pitfalls that you can fall into.

When everyone has shared, read **John 15** together. “Apart from the life of Jesus we can do nothing... we must lean into Him, in prayer, dependence, faith and understanding.”

Prayer

James 5:16 tells us that through confession to God and one another we may find healing.

- **Repent of worldliness, confess it to God and everyone in your group, thank Jesus for His forgiveness and ask for His power, strength and perspective as you move forward.**

To finish your time of prayer, one person read the "Prayer of Repentance" we prayed on the weekend:

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE:

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known and from You no secrets are hid. Cleanse us in the heart by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy Name through Christ our Lord. Come O Lord and do what You need to do in us to make us Your people through and through at the deepest levels of our being.

Forgive us O Lord for the ways in which we have lived that have been outside of Your definitions of what a righteous life is like.

Forgive us O Lord for leading and living with a sense that it is up to us to make things happen.

Forgive us O Lord for living with the characteristic of drivenness to a fault.

Forgive us O Lord when we haven't paid attention to Your truth and clearly identified right and wrong.

Forgive us O Lord for living self-centred lives, for having this sense of entitlement inside, for living our lives with a goal of leisure rather than service to You.

Forgive us O Lord for giving in to materialism and allowing our pursuit of money and things to drive us in sinful ways.

Forgive us O Lord for the ways in which we have embraced the world's values when it comes to status in the Church. Forgive us O Lord for not seeing every person whose a part of our body as being one for whom You died, one whom You as the Father loves and someone who is so worthy and so valuable in Your eyes.

Forgive us O Lord for applying secular methodologies to spiritual realities and instead of seeking Your Spirit seeking the next best solution.

Forgive us O Lord for believing deep down that if we can plan it we can succeed. Whether it comes through the church or our own lives, we've often believed that.

And forgive us O Lord for being entrepreneurial in ways You never intended. You are the one to lead the way and we are to follow in Your train.

Help us O Lord to stop making You our second priority.

Help us O Lord to stop relying on ourselves and to allow You to lead.

Help us O Lord to encourage and invite the whole body to engage in works of service to build up the body instead of leaning on a few.

And help us O Lord to submit to Your leadership by inviting Your Holy Spirit to mold us into a true community that is led by the Holy Spirit and deeply engaged in relationship with one another.

So continue to speak to us. Continue to help us hear Your voice. Reveal our wrong. Bring to light the darkness in our lives even as You offer us the light of Your word to bring us hope and the way forward. And we will live for Your glory for it is to You that we offer all the majesty and the power and the dominion and the praise and the honor and the glory is Yours. And it is in Your name that we pray. And all God's people said Amen.

Challenge

I challenged you all on the weekend to process this question over the week: "How are we cultural infected and culturally driven individually and as a church?" Take time to pray and ask God this question this week.