

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 13, 2005

Passage: 1 John 2:15-17

Memory Passage: Romans 12:2 **TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 2:15.** In 2:5 and 2:10, what is the mark of a Christian? In 2:15, what does John warn believers against loving?

(b) In 1 John 5:19, what does he say is the current situation for believers with regard to the world?

(c) What had Jesus told his disciples about the world in John 15:18-21? What does John remind his readers in 1 John 3:1? Why is the world opposed to us?

(d) What is the world? Read the following verses: 1 John 2:2; John 1:10; 1 John 5:19? What are the three ways this term is used in the Bible? Which way is he using the term in 1 John 2:15?

(e) Read Proverbs 6:17-19. What are the things God hates? Do love and hate go together? Explain.

(f) *Family:* Read 1 John 2:15 together. Talk about the world. What is it? Why is it dangerous for the believer? What are the things in the world that are most attractive for believers? Pray for each other, that you will be able to know the dangers of loving the world.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 2:15.** What does the love of the world do to us (also see Matthew 6:24; James 4:4)?

(b) Why does John say that the love of the Father is not in him?

(c) According to 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19, are *things* the problem or is there something else? Explain.

(d) How can we counteract the attraction of the world? What attitudes should we cultivate according to 1 Timothy 6:6-8, 17-19 (also see Colossians 3:1-2)?

(e) Consider the parable of the four soils (Matthew 13:1-9, 22-23). What is the problem with the third soil? What keeps it from being what the farmer desires? How does this happen to believers?

(f) *Family:* Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19 together. Talk about having material things. Does God want us to live as monks in a monastery? What should be our attitude toward material things? Talk about ways to cultivate a contented spirit. Pray that each member of your family would learn to be satisfied with all that God gives.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 2:16.** What are the three avenues through which the world seeks to tempt us?

(b) Compare these with the first temptation in Genesis 3:6. Has Satan changed his tactics?

(c) Read Matthew 4:1-11. What temptations did Jesus face? Are these similar in any way to the temptations in 1 John and Genesis 3?

(d) How did he handle each one? What did John say was the strength of the “young men” in 1 John 2:12-14?

(e) What does this teach us about the primary way to deal with temptations (also see Psalm 119:9, 11)?

(f) *Family*: Read Genesis 3:6 and Matthew 4:1-11. Talk about temptation. How does it happen? What are some of the ways that Eve was tempted? How did Jesus resist the temptations of the devil? Pray for each member of your family today to be able to recognize and resist the temptations they will face.

#### **DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 John 2:16.** Consider again the three avenues of temptation that Satan uses. Is there some reason for the order that John uses?

(b) What is the “lust of the flesh?” What do these verses tell us about this – Ephesians 2:3; Romans 13:14; James 1: 13-15; Titus 2:2-3? According to 1 Peter 2:11 and 4:2, why are these to be avoided?

(c) What is the “lust of the eyes?” How do the eyes affect us in temptation? What do these verses tell us about this temptation – Psalm 119:36-37; Ecclesiastes 5:10-11? How did Job protect himself from this kind of temptation (Job 31:1)?

(d) What is the “pride of life?” How can it be more subtle and more dangerous than the others?

(e) Read James 4:13-16. What aspect of boasting does James mention? What is the essence of boasting (1 Corinthians 4:6-7)?

(f) *Family*: Read 1 John 2:16. Talk about the three areas of temptation that John mentions. Which is the most difficult? Which is the most “deadly?” Talk about some practical ways to avoid each of these areas. Review 1 John 1:9 and give thanks for God’s forgiveness and cleansing whenever we do fall into temptation.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 John 2:17.** What is another reason that we should not love the world (vs. 17)? What will happen to this world?

(b) According to 1 Corinthians 7:31, what is *already* happening to this world?

(c) Read Psalm 73:18-20. What did the Psalmist learn about the world and all the things people have in this world?

(d) What do Matthew 6:19-21 and James 4:14 remind us about the things of this world?

(e) How is the nature of a believer different from the world? What do Psalm 125:1 and Matthew 7:24-27 tell us about the believer both now and in eternity?

(f) *Family*: Read 1 John 2:17. What are some reasons why we should not love the world? In what ways should we love the world (John 3:16)? How is this different? Pray for someone that needs to know about God’s love in Christ. Consider inviting them to church this Sunday.

#### **DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Talk together about the temptations that this world presents to us all. How do these temptations come? What are the hardest for you to deal with and why? How does loving the world affect our love for the Father and our love of other believers (1 John 3:16-18)? How can we overcome the lure of the world? Pray “and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”