

Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 10, 2021

1 John 2:12-17 – What's Really Important?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- How do you prioritize things in life? How do you decide what to spend your time, energy, money on?
- Do you ever find yourself unwittingly slipping into getting your priorities out of order? How do you think that happens?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking over your notes from this past teaching... was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

MAIN POINT

If we want fellowship with God, if we want fullness of joy, we can't fall in love with the things of the world, we need to keep our focus on JESUS.

DIGGING INTO THE WORD

- Share a time you thought something was going to bring you joy, but it ended up letting you down.

Read – 1 John 2:12-14

- Who does John identify as those who need to hear this teaching?

Read – 1 John 2:15

"THE WORLD" = anything that is temporary rather than eternal

"LOVE" = Greek – **"AGAPE"** = UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

- Why is it impossible to have an unconditional love for the temporary things of this world, and have an unconditional love for God at the same time?

- In what ways have you struggled with an unconditional love for this world?
- What things can we love now that are not just temporary, but will also continue into eternity?

Read – 1 John 2:16-17

- What are the 3 categories John identifies as all sin falling into?
- How is it possible to find joy in something without being led by our EYES, FLESH, or PRIDE?
- Why does God not want us to pursue joy in the things of this world?
 - Is He trying to keep us from having fun?
 - Is He trying to protect us from being let down?
- Why do you think people sometimes view Christianity as a NON-JOYFUL endeavor?
- Is God's desire for us to LACK JOY... or have an ABUNDANCE of JOY?
- What can cause Christians to miss out on the joy God desires them to have?

Read – 1 Corinthians 7:31 (NLT) - ***Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away.***

- What is Paul's exhortation regarding the things of this world?

Read – Philippians 4:11-13

- What did Paul identify as the thing that taught him to be content in all circumstances?

Read – Psalm 63:1-5

- In verse 1, how did David describe his current state of existence?
- In verse 3, what did David identify as "better than life"?
- When does God's love for us end?

Read – Romans 8:31-39

- If God's love for us is what brings us joy, what can take that away from us?
- If this is the case, then what creates a lack of joy in us?

TAKING IT HOME

- How can you adjust your priorities in life so that you experience more joy?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS