

Lighthouse Group Handout: The World Around Us

Scripture Reading: 1 John 2:15–17

Icebreaker

If you had to describe the "world's" definition of a successful life, what are the top three things on that list?

Discussion Questions

1. Defining the Threat

John tells us "Do not love the world." Given that God created the physical earth, what specifically does John mean by "the world" here? How does this definition change the way you view the activities of your daily life?

- **Dig Deeper:** Are there areas of your life where you have conflated "enjoying God's good gifts" with "loving the world's system"?

2. The Throne Room of the Heart

How does the "throne" illustration—that only one king can rule our hearts—challenge the idea that we can be "mostly" devoted to God while keeping parts of our lives reserved for the world?

- **Dig Deeper:** Where do you find yourself most tempted to set up a "co-rule" in your heart, where you want Jesus but also want the world's approval?

3. Pleasure (The Flesh)

Our culture operates on the assumption that if an impulse is strong, it is a demand to be satisfied. How does this contrast with the biblical definition of "flesh" and the discipline of obedience?

- **Dig Deeper:** What is a "good" thing that you have allowed to become a "god" thing by refusing to say "no" to it?

4. Possessions (The Eyes)

John links the "desires of the eyes" to a lack of contentment. Why does comparing ourselves to others usually result in a misunderstanding of God's provision for our own lives?

- **Dig Deeper:** What specific "next thing" are you waiting for before you feel like you can be fully content in God?

5. Prestige (The Pride of Life)

The "pride of life" is about finding significance in what we accomplish or how we are perceived. Where do you see this temptation most clearly in the church today, or even in our own circle?

- **Dig Deeper:** If you stripped away your job title, your reputation, and your achievements, what would be left of your sense of security?

6. The Lie of the World

The world promises satisfaction, yet John says everything it offers is "passing away." Why do we persist in believing the world's promises even after we have seen them fail to satisfy us in the past?

- **Dig Deeper:** Think of a time you achieved something you thought would make you happy but didn't. What did that experience teach you about the nature of the world's promises?

7. Staying Faithful

Why is it dangerous to assume that because we were faithful yesterday, we are immune to the world's pull today?

- **Dig Deeper:** What specific habits or rhythms in your life are currently guarding your heart against this drift?

8. The Gospel Solution

If the answer to loving the world isn't just "trying harder" or creating a list of rules, how does the gospel change the way we interact with these worldly temptations?

- **Dig Deeper:** How does realizing that Jesus died for your "worldly" sins encourage you to run to Him rather than hide from Him?

Carry It Forward

"What's one thing God impressed on you tonight that you want to carry into this week?"

Further Study

Read Matthew 6:19–24. Consider how Jesus' teaching on "two masters" connects with John's warning in 1 John 2.

Reflect: During your personal time with God this week, write down three things you currently possess or have achieved that you are tempted to find your identity in. Spend time thanking God for them, then consciously "hand them back" to Him, acknowledging that He is the true source of your security.

Source material: *Lighthouse Guide - The World Around*

Us](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19LpfbHKdVDP2NVmna7mEb7Bm0mMyES4FyaMRTxj0JCw/edit?usp=drive_web*)