**Discussion Guide for Community Groups**

**Living for Christ in a Secular World – The Big Picture**

**Icebreakers:**

1. What is your favorite “place” or location on planet earth? (Why?)
2. What kind of a person are you… (There is no right or wrong answer here) Are you more renewed by being around other people or by being alone in nature?
3. When it comes to art; do you prefer landscapes, portraits, still life or abstract? (What do you like about what you like?)

**Read the following passage: 1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.  And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

**Background:** *The Apostle John uses the Greek word “Kosmos” which has been translated into the English as “world.” Kosmos is a wide-ranging word that is inclusive of everything that makes up the world. It includes, but is not limited to, the physical matter that composes the world, all the inhabitants and life on the world (including mankind, animal and plant life), all the spiritual forces that influence the world, and all the attitudes and values that shape the civilization thereof. It is a loaded word!*

**Verse 15: *Do not love the world or the things in the world.***

1. There are two warnings in this short sentence: 1) Do not love the world; 2) Do not love the “things” in the world.
2. What do you think John was talking about when he referred to “The World?”
3. What do you think would be some of the “things in the world” that John was warning us against?

Note: Modern-Day idolatry consists of the “things in the world” that become more important to us than God. It is why Jesus warned the Church of Ephesus to “return to their first love.”

**Verse 16:** ***For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.***

1. Define the following: 1) Lust of the flesh; 2) Lust of the eyes; 3) Pride of life.
2. According to scripture, what does God think of pride? James 4:6 (NKJV) But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: *"God resists the proud,* *But gives grace to the humble."*
3. How can a Christian cultivate humility?

**Verse 17:** **And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

1. What do you think John meant when he stated that the “world is passing away?”
2. What are some of the benefits to walking in the will of God?

**Wrap-up:** *There is a stark and glaring difference in outcome between chasing after the world and walking in the will of God. The world is temporary and following Christ is without end. Have you noticed that since you became a Believer in Christ you still have the freedom of choice? John is encouraging his audience to choose wisely. How wise are you?*

Good or Evil

Right or Wrong

Wise or Foolish

Light or Darkness

Angels or Demons

Righteousness or Sinfulness

Life or Death

Truth or Lies

Holy Spirit or The Flesh