

Week of January 11, 2026 - What Do You Love? Small Group Lesson 4

Connect

What is one "toy" or item you desperately wanted as a child (or adult!) that you thought was everything, but now you barely remember it? Why do you think we feel like we need something so bad, but then later realize we don't?

Verses - 1 John 2:12-17 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

12 I am writing to you, little children, since your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one. 14 I have written to you, children, because you have come to know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have come to know the one who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, God's word remains in you, and you have conquered the evil one.

15 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. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. John addresses the "little children" in v.12. What is the specific reason he gives for writing to them? What does he mean to say by stating that?

2. John says they are strong and have conquered the evil one. What specific thing does he say "remains" in them that gives them this victory? (v.14)

3. John breaks down "the world" into three specific distractions. What are they? (v.16)

4. There is a contrast between the "world" and the "one who does the will of God." What is the destiny of each? (v.17)

Share

Discuss 1:

Pastor Takeshi realized his frustration with others was actually his own pride, not God's righteousness. In QT, he realized his actions were ungodly.

Think of a recent time you got angry. Was the root actually pride (my way) or lust (I want…)? How does letting His Word "abide in you" change your reaction (without being motivated by worldly guilt)?

Discuss 2:

How do each stage mentioned by John (little children, fathers, young men, children describe the gospel centered life) define the gospel centered life? Which stage do you think you tend to neglect? How would it benefit you if you behold that truth?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.