



for April 26 sermon

I John 2:15-27

GUIDELINE SPOTLIGHT - PAUSE

Allowing a pause in conversation after someone shares gives the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. vv. 15-17. Looking at verse 16, what are the three categories of worldly desire John identifies? How would you define each one in 2026 terms?

- ***Lust of the flesh: physical appetite - not just sex, but comfort, numbing distractions, and indulgence***
- ***Lust of the eyes: greed and comparison***
- ***Pride of life: the need to be right, be seen, be superior, or unique.***

Which of these three feels like the loudest distraction from knowing God in your life right now?

2, vv. 18-23. John uses the term “antichrist” to describe those who deny the Son. According to verse 22, what is the specific lie that defines an antichrist? In our culture, people often say they ‘believe in God’ but aren’t sure about Jesus. Why does John say that’s an impossible position? ***This is a crucial theological boundary. To “know Him” means knowing the biblical Jesus fully God and fully man. You can’t claim to love God while redefining who Jesus is to fit your own preferences.***

3. vv. 20-27. John mentions an “anointing” (the Holy Spirit) that believers have received. What is the result of this anointing in the life of a believer? How does it help us “remain” in what we heard from the beginning? ***The “anointing” isn’t a secret superpower for a few; it’s the Holy Spirit given to all believers to help them discern truth from error. It reminds us of the Gospel we first believed, so we don’t get swept away by “new” or “trendy” spiritualities.***

4. vv. 24-25. The word “remain” (or “abide”) is used repeatedly. What does it look like practically to let the Gospel “remain” in you? How is “remaining” different from just “remembering” a fact? ***The remaining is relational. It’s the difference between knowing about someone and living with someone. It implies a constant presence and growing affection.***

5. v. 28. “And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.” What “worldly” thing are you currently chasing that would make you feel embarrassed in His physical presence? ***DO NOT LET THE CONVERSATION END IN SHAME. Immediately point the group to 2:1-2 to remind the group that our confidence doesn’t come from being perfect, but from “remaining” in Him, staying close to our Advocate. We bring these things into the light so that the ‘blood of Jesus cleanses us’ (1:7) and we can walk forward unburdened. Shepherd your group back to the gospel, which is the foundation of all our confidence.***