

1 John 2:15-27

Not of This World

Scripture: 1 John 2:15-27

Memory Verse: 1 John 2:15 "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."

Lesson Focus: John makes very clear in this passage that believers in Jesus are to pursue God's ways as opposed to the world's ways. We will challenge the kids to be "in the world", but "not of the world".

Activities and Crafts: Not of this World Coloring Page, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd - 5th.
Activity for 1st and 2nd Graders: Choose Your Side

Starter Activity: Bumper Stickers

Consider getting the lesson started by talking about driving. Ask the kids if any of them are excited to drive * and then have some discussion about what bumper stickers are and why people might put them on their cars. See the pictures we left in your classroom. * Consider starting with the picture of the car smothered in stickers.

Q: Why might people put bumper stickers on their cars?

A: They want to communicate ideas that are important to them!

Then go through the other examples that we provided and have some discussion about each. See below for some questions to ask. Consider asking the kids if their parents/grandparents have any bumper stickers on their cars or share your own if you have some. * Be sure to conclude with the "Not of this World" picture to transition into the lesson.

- 1) Denver Broncos Emblem. Q: If you see this, what does it indicate?
- 2) Baby on Board. Q: Why might someone put this on their car?
- 3) Wag More, Bark Less. Q: What do you think this means?
- 4) NOTW. Q: Anyone seen this before or know what it means?

This is a retro graphic among Christians that stands for "**Not of this World**". * It expresses the idea of how believers are to be "in the world", but "**not of the world**". As we continue in our study of John's first letter, we will not only learn what it means for believers in Jesus to be in the world, but not of it, but also learn how! Let's open our Bibles and find out!

Bible Study:

1 John 2:15a: Last week John taught us the right things that believers in Jesus are supposed to love: God and others. * But following Jesus is not just about loving the right things, but also about NOT loving the wrong things!

When John says not to love the world, he is not talking about the people in the world nor God's creation in general *, but the world "system". The Bible is very clear that all of us are players in an epic "spiritual" battle between good and evil, light and darkness, God and the devil. This "world" is dominated by evil forces of darkness that are opposed to God and His ways. Believers in Jesus are to SHINE in that darkness!

1 John 2:15b: You can see how serious this is! Everyone must decide which side they are on. Either you put God and His ways first (loving God), or you put the world and its ways first (loving the world). It is impossible to love both!

Teachers: Consider using the "God" and "World" signs that we left for you. * Put them up on opposite sides of the room and either have a volunteer come up or have yourself stand in the middle and face the correct sign per the Qs below.

Q: Is it possible to be facing both God and the world at the same time? A: NO! If you love one your back will be turned to the other!

Q: According to the Bible, what is an "unbeliever" facing? A: The world! While an unbeliever may not always do bad things, their first love is for things "of this world". *

Q: What happens when an unbeliever repents and trusts in Jesus? A: Not only do they turn away from the world, but now they are facing only God. With their backs facing the world, they declare they love God first and that they are "**Not of this World**"!

1 John 2:16: John now helps us understand a little better the lure of this world system. Think about fishing: What do you use to catch a fish? BAIT! In the same way, the enemy baits us with temptations that draw us away from God and into the world.

We see this in Genesis where the enemy baits Eve into committing the very first human sin that ushered in the fall and corruption of the world. **Read Genesis 3:6** and point out how it was the craving of the eyes, the craving of the flesh, and their selfish pride that got her and Adam "hooked" into the enemy's world system.

Q: What are some things that you think the enemy uses as bait today? A: Drugs, riches, fame, bad movies/music, etc. * The world celebrates these things that God is opposed to! So to be "**Not of this World**" means to curb your affections for such things.

1 John 2:17: The world system is passing away. Jesus's death and resurrection guaranteed the devil's doom! Yet this victory won't be completely sealed until He returns a second time. Until then, believers are called to live "**Not of this World**" actively and lovingly pursuing God and what He wants!

1 John 2:18: Think of a big bad guy boss and his/her minions from a story you like. * There are similar evil forces in the real world! Sometime before Jesus returns, the Bible talks about this human antichrist figure who will exalt himself as ruler of this world system against God. He has not come yet, but his minions are at work even now!

1 John 2:19: Some of these antichrist minions are those whom John even knew! Yet, like Adam and Eve they fell for the lies of the enemy and turned their backs on God in pursuit of worldly things. This is very sad, but still happens today when people turn against God, sometimes for good. *

1 John 2:20-21: But it is not so with true believers in Jesus! While they are in the battle and need to be on guard against the attacks of the enemy, they also have the secret weapon who defends them against the attacks of the enemy: the Holy Spirit! * God's Spirit lives inside of every believer and He protects them from error and helps them to persevere as those who are "**not of the world**"!

1 John 2:22: In John's day some of these minions were denying that Jesus was who He said He was and proved Himself to be: the promised Rescuer. *

Q: What does it mean to deny something? A: To reject or be "anti" that thing. * And these folks were anti-Jesus which is why John calls them little antichrists!

1 John 2:23: Today there are people that might say they know or love God and might even be sincere about it, but they deny what the Bible teaches about Jesus as God's Son that came to save us from our sins. John is very clear that if you deny Jesus, you are a little "antichrist" denying God Himself! As Jesus Himself said, He is the ONLY way to the Father! (**John 14:6**)

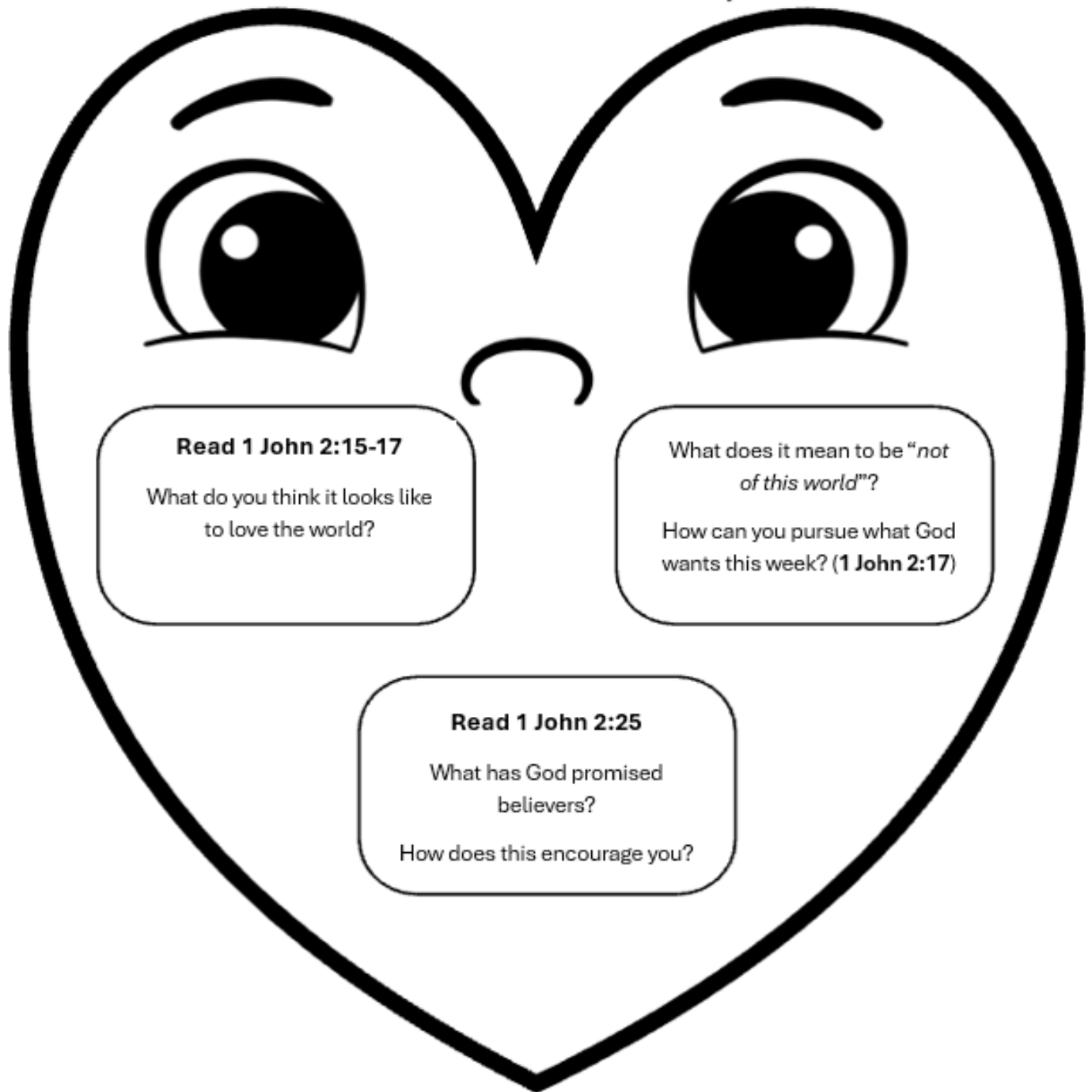
1 John 2:24-27: John wraps up this section of his letter encouraging them to cling to what they heard and learned from the beginning: the gospel. This is the fixed and unchangeable good news that is captured in **John 3:16**. These minions were trying to deceive believers with new ideas about Jesus that were lies. John instead tells them to cling to the simple gospel. His encouragement would be the same for believers today!

Key Point: Notice in v. 25 what God has promised those who trust in Him: eternal life. The world and its system cannot offer this. Remember the world and its lusts are passing away (v. 17). Believers: Don't fall for the enemy's tricks! As you leave church today, remember to cling to the Truth: That Jesus died for your sins, rose again, and is coming back! He has promised you eternal life. * Be in the world, but not of the world!

If you are not a believer in Jesus or are living for things of this world, John has a strong warning for you! You have been tricked by the enemy and are on the losing side of this battle! And it does not end well for the losers! God is inviting you to turn away from your allegiance to the world, and to turn to Jesus in faith and trust. In so doing you will be forgiven all of your sins and promised eternal life! Ready to change sides?

BRING IT HOME

BEHOLD what manner of **LOVE** the Father has bestowed on us,



that we should be called children of God!