

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Lost in Translation

Speaker: Christian Vaughn

Message: In the World But Not Of

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ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES

Memory Verse: Proverbs 2:6
For the Lord gives wisdom;
from His mouth come knowledge and
understanding.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: We are to live set apart in the truth of Christ among the world.

Read John 17:13-19

1. Jesus twice says, "they are not of the world" (v. 14, 16). What do you think is the primary distinction Jesus is making between His followers and the "world?" What are some specific examples of values or priorities that might characterize someone who is "of the world" versus someone who is striving to be "not of the world?" How can we live in the world, participating in society and culture without adopting the negative aspects that Jesus seems to be referring to when He says we are "not of the world?"
2. Jesus says, "the world has hated them because they are not of the world" (v.14). Have you ever experienced any kind of hatred or opposition for your faith? What did that look like? How did you respond?
3. Jesus prays that the Father would not take His followers out of the world but keep them from the evil one (v. 15-16). Why do you think Jesus prayed for protection *within* the world rather than removal *from* it? What does this tell us about our purpose here?



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4. Jesus prays we will be protected from our spiritual enemy (v. 15). How aware are you of spiritual opposition in your life? How do you discern between external pressures, natural consequences and spiritual attacks?
5. Jesus prays, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" (v. 17). The Greek word for "sanctify" (*hagiazō*) means to separate from the profane and dedicate to God. How does consistently engaging with Scripture (God's truth) shape our thinking, desires and actions in a way that makes us more "not of the world?" Can you share a personal example of this?
6. Jesus says that just as the Father sent Him into the world, He sends us (v. 18). How does seeing yourself as someone who is sent impact your mindset when you are interacting with others? As people who are sent, are there times when withdrawing from certain aspects of the world might be necessary for safety or our spiritual health? How do we balance engagement and healthy boundaries?
7. Jesus consecrated Himself so we might be sanctified in truth (v. 19). How is your life set apart in ways that others can see and be drawn to Jesus through you? Have you ever had a moment when someone noticed something different about the way you live? If so, what happened? What would it look like to live more intentionally "in the world" but distinctly for Christ?
8. In looking at how Jesus engaged the world we see that He regularly interacted with those who were considered poor or outcasts. How comfortable are you with engaging in meaningful conversations with people who hold different beliefs or values? What are some challenges and opportunities in doing so?

Reach out to anyone who couldn't participate with your Small Group and make a personal connection with them this coming week (call, text, email, or personal face-to-face conversation). Let them know they were missed, and you look forward to seeing them next time.



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