

# Group Leader Guide

## 1 John – part 4 “Remain in Him”

### Sermon Recap

Have you ever felt pulled between two worlds, your faith and the alluring promises of culture? In this powerful message, Pastor Chris unpacks the gripping story of the Stockholm Syndrome to illuminate a spiritual parallel many Christians face today. Through a deep dive into 1 John 2:15-29, he reveals how Satan's age-old tactics—the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life—still threaten to divide our loyalty between God and the world. But there's hope: Pastor Chris shows how staying anchored in Christ through the Holy Spirit's anointing keeps us steady in deceptive times.

### Ice Breaker

If you could only eat one dish for the rest of your life (but it magically had all the nutrients you needed), what would it be?

### Discussion Questions

1. What from the sermon stood out to you? How were you challenged, motivated, or convicted from what you heard?
2. Pastor Chris talks about the three ways Satan tempts us: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Which of these three do you think is most challenging for Christians today and why?
  - a. The sermon explains how these same three temptations were used in the Garden of Eden and against Jesus in the wilderness, showing Satan's consistent strategy throughout history.
  - b. When have you personally experienced one of these three types of temptation, and what helped you overcome it?
3. In 1 John 2:15-17, John warns believers not to love the world or anything in the world. How can Christians balance living in the world while not being 'of the world'?
  - a. The sermon clarifies that John isn't talking about not loving creation or people, but rather a worldview that operates independently of God and makes self the center instead of God.
  - b. What are some specific areas in your life where you find it challenging to distinguish between engaging with the world and being pulled into worldly values?
4. The sermon discusses how some people can be present IN the church but not OF the church. What are some ways we can ensure our faith is genuine and not just surface-level participation?

- a. Pastor Chris uses the example of Judas, who was physically present with Jesus for three years but ultimately defected, showing his heart was never truly transformed.
  - b. What spiritual practices or habits help you maintain an authentic relationship with God rather than just going through religious motions?
5. How does understanding that we have the Holy Spirit's 'anointing' help us discern truth from falsehood in today's world of competing spiritual messages?
  - a. The sermon explains that every believer has the Holy Spirit to illuminate God's Word and provide discernment, meaning we don't need special insider knowledge from false teachers.
  - b. Can you share a time when you felt the Holy Spirit helping you discern truth from falsehood in a spiritual matter?
6. Pastor Chris emphasizes the importance of 'remaining' or 'abiding' in Christ. What practical steps can believers take to actively remain in Christ when faced with external pressures and internal doubts?
  - a. The sermon points out that true faith isn't about perfection but perseverance, and that genuine believers keep coming back to Christ and the gospel.
  - b. What specific practices help you stay anchored in Christ when you face challenging circumstances or doubts?

### **Prayer**

- Begin by sharing any personal prayer requests with the group.
- Ask God to help us remain firm in our faith, resisting the temptations of the world.
- Pray for guidance to identify and reject false teachings that might lead us astray.
- Seek God's strength to abide in His truth and His Word throughout the coming week.