

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of June 4th, 2006

John 17:14-18, In the World, Not of the World

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

"In the world but not of it." Wow. What a concept. The first thing that comes to mind is, "easier said than done." Yet, I know that if I am going to truly follow Christ, I must learn this concept. When I think about this, my thoughts immediately go to Moses. Listen to this:

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." Hebrews 11:8-10

What was Moses looking toward? I find that his posture for living is a stirring one. He was willing to sacrifice in order to please Christ. Am I? Are we?

Blessings to you,
Scott

These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **CS Lewis:** Lewis once said, "*If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.*" C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity"
- What does CS Lewis seem to be saying in this quote?
- Have you ever experienced what CS Lewis is describing?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Read John 17:6-19 (focusing on the section that speaks of *being in the world but not of it*).

1. Throughout verses 13-19 there is an interesting interplay between "word" and "world." What is the relationship between the two?
2. Describe the joy that Christ desires us to have (v. 13).
3. Does the world really hate Christ's followers? If so why? In what ways do you see that hate in our culture?
4. **In the World:** Jesus' response to hate was love. He responded to the hate of others by loving and caring for those around him. How is his response different from those Christians who separate themselves from the world?
5. **Not of the World:** One of the criticisms made against the church in the US is that we live lives that aren't substantially different from those who don't know Christ. Do you agree with that assessment? Why or why not?
6. Read Hebrews 11:8-10. Why do you think Moses chose to live in this manner?
7. In practical terms, how do we go about living with the kind of mindset that Moses lived with?
8. Where do we find the strength or resources to be in the world but not of the world?

Getting Personal:

- What are we looking forward to? Moses was looking forward to a new heaven and new earth. Are we looking forward to our new forever home, or are we more apt to look forward to our next vacation, our graduation, a pay raise, etc.?

Putting it into Practice:

- What could your group do to put this week's principle into practice?