

Thank you for previewing a *youthministry360* Leader/Student Guide. We're pumped you're considering purchasing a ym360 Bible Study resource.

We put a lot of intentionality into the content and the layout of our lesson plans. This short intro will help you know what to look for as you evaluate this preview.

Looking At Your ym360 Leader Guide

This Leader Guide combines deep, meaningful Bible study with relevant, creative activities. You'll find all our lessons plans both easy to follow and easy to teach.

Each ym360 Leader Guide is broken down into the following sections:

- **Teacher Prep Videos**—Short, straightforward videos designed to help you prepare to teach the lesson
- **Bible Background**—A one page, easy to digest snapshot of the specific passage's context and main biblical truth. Use this to help prepare to teach your lesson.
- **The Lead In**—An interactive, thematic intro to the lesson
- **The Main Event**—An intense, deep time of Biblical study designed to drive home the lesson's truth
- **Bonus Round**—An optional activity that goes deeper into the lesson's biblical theme
- **The Last Word**—A final activity allowing you to really hone-in on the lesson's application

Additionally, every ym360 Bible Study resource features a student component. This lesson features a Student Guide that corresponds with an activity in the Leaders Guide.

If you have any questions about your Leader Guide/Student Guide preview PDF, please do not hesitate to email (feedback@youthministry360.com) or call us (888.96.ym360).

ENGAGE Lesson 1: This World vs. God's World

Objective: The point of this lesson is that your students would begin to evaluate their relationship with the world and with God.

Focus Scripture: 1 John 2:15-17

Overview: There are two opposing realities that vie for your students' affection: God and "the world." It's an age-old struggle, made all the more intense by just how hostile the world is to God and the values of His Kingdom. But the most interesting thing is that many of your students aren't aware of this struggle. Many teenagers simply don't see a problem with acting in a "worldly" way with one group of friends or circumstances, and putting on their "church" hat when they are with another set of friends. The only problem with this is that as Christ-followers, we don't have this option. This lesson will help your students understand the difference between the ways of God and the ways of the world, and how to begin evaluating where exactly their life lines up: with the world, or with God.

TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Teacher Prep Videos are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your *Engage* Lesson One Teacher Prep Video, click on the URL below and view the video entitled "Engage Lesson 1: This World vs. God's World."

- www.youthministry360.com/engage-prep-videos

Bible Background

The **Bible Background** is a simple and straightforward way to help you prepare to teach the lesson.

The Details

Who wrote 1 John?

John the Apostle is the author of 1 John. Along with Peter and James, John formed the "inner three" of Jesus' group of twelve disciples. Peter, James, and John were Jesus' closest followers.

When was it written?

1 John was probably written sometime in the period after the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD, but probably no later than 90 AD.

What was the purpose for its writing?

John was writing to a population (1st Century Christ-followers) who had seen their ranks diminished at the onset of Roman persecution. John was calling his audience to a faith that was doctrinally sound and application oriented. He reminded his readers of the teachings of Christ, and urged them to put them into practice.

The Main Point

1 JOHN 2:15

For the purposes of this lesson, the main point of 1 John 2:15-17 is verse 15: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." This verse helps set up the foundational argument of *Engage*. This verse sets up the conflict, or the tension, between God and the world.

Notice how John frames the discussion. He is not ambivalent. He does not frame the conversation in mild tones. John says that if you love the world, or anything in it, you hate God. Furthermore, John says that if we love the world, God is literally not in us. Wow. That is about as strong a message as one could communicate. John clearly defines the idea that God and the world are completely opposed to one another.

ENGAGE : Lesson 1**>> THIS WORLD VS. GOD'S WORLD****Wrap Up**

Lesson 1 of *Engage* is simply aimed at making sure your students feel this tension. They need to understand the two sides of the argument: God and the world. Then, you can begin to help them evaluate their attitudes toward both God and the world. Where does their allegiance lie? What most of your students will probably find is that they have areas in their lives where they are way too close to the world, but also some areas where they have a good foundation for growing closer to God. The goal is to help them understand that they must choose. They cannot have a love for both God and the world.

Lesson Plan

The Lesson Plan contains three elements: *The Build Up*, which is a creative, interactive activity that introduces the theme of the lesson; *The Focus*, which is the heart of the lesson and contains the Bible Study section; and *The Payoff* which focuses on driving home the application of the lesson's biblical truth.

The Build Up

Title: You're A Christ-Follower

Goal: The idea is to begin to introduce your students to the concept of God vs. the world, with God's ways being opposed to the world's ways.

Set Up: You'll need the *Engage Media Disc* and a way to show the Lesson One Video, such as a DVD player. Or if you would prefer to drop the video into your presentation software, open the Media Disc on your computer, download the .MOV or .MPEG file, and drop it into a slide.

FIRST >> remind students that you're beginning a four-lesson study on how to live as Christ-followers in today's world, entitled, *Engage*. Explain to your students that you're going to watch a video that serves as an overall introduction of the theme of the next four lessons.

NEXT >> show the video.

THEN >> lead your students in a short discussion. Ask:

- **How do you respond to the video's assertion that the world is a place that doesn't believe what you believe?**
- **Do you see the "If it feels good, do it" philosophy alive in the world around you? What's wrong with this way of approaching life?**
- **Where do you feel the world pulling you away from Christ? How does this look in your day-to-day life?**

Ask students what the difference is in merely living in the world, and engaging the world with the Gospel? Don't give students a chance to answer. Explain that this question is at the heart of *Engage*, a four-lesson study on how to interact with the world your students live in.

FINALLY >> encourage your students that the next four lessons will be a time where they will be challenged to evaluate their faith-life, and the kind of impact they are having on the world around them. Challenge them to let this time be one that truly changes the way they live their lives in this world.

The Focus

Title: This World vs. God's World

Goal: The idea is to flesh out the concept of God vs. the world and help students begin to understand that they cannot be aligned with both.

Set-Up: Provide Student Guides and something to write with for your students. If you have a projector, you'll need the "This World vs. God's World" PowerPoint presentation found in your Lesson 1 Folder of your *Engage Lessons Disc*. If you don't have a projector, be prepared to use a dry-erase board to write the information that appears on the slides.

FIRST >> begin by explaining to students that over the next four lessons they will learn all about what the Bible means when it talks about "the world," and why as Christ-followers, they must know how to approach it. But, explain that right now you're going to lay the foundation for this discussion by defining the terms.

ENGAGE : Lesson 1

>> THIS WORLD VS. GOD'S WORLD

NEXT >> instruct students to look at their Student Guides. Instruct them to take a moment and define the word, "world," in the space provided. Once they have had a second to do so, allow a couple of them to share their answers with the class. Explain to students that the way you are going to be defining the word "world" over the next few lessons is the way the Bible defines it. Explain that it might be a little different than some of the definitions they wrote down.

THEN >> walk students through the way the Bible defines the word, "world." (If you choose, use the "This World vs. God's World" PowerPoint slide show. If not, use a dry-erase board.) Explain that the New Testament defines "the world" as follows:

- "The concerns of the earth and its affairs as distinguished from heaven and the life to come"ⁱ

Explain that another way of looking at it might be like this:

- An environment of hatred toward God and the things of God.ⁱⁱ

Ask students to sum-up both of these definitions in their own words. Lead them to understand that "the world" represents all the earthly things that make up the culture and society we live in, as opposed to the Godly things that have to do with God's Kingdom and His ways.

NEXT >> direct students' attention to their Student Guides. Work as a class to answer the question, "Where do you see the world? What does it look like?" Help students understand that we see the world in a variety of places, including:

- Music
- Movies
- Government
- TV
- Business
- Magazines
- People's interactions with others

Explain that basically, we see "the world" in our culture, in the society that surrounds us. And, as you are about to examine, this world stands in stark contrast to God and what He desires for us.

THEN >> read or have a student read 1 John 2:15-17. When you have finished, walk students through these verses one at a time. Explain that each verse more-or-less contains one central thought. Lead students in the following discussion:

- **What is the central thought of verse 15? Here's a hint: it has to do with how you should approach the world.**
 - o *Answer:* We can't love the world. (If you choose, have your students write this on their Student Guides.)
- **Think of how we described the world earlier. What do you think it means to love the world?**
 - o *Answer:* When we have a desire for, or a fixation on, the things of this world to the point where they come in between God and us, we demonstrate a love for the world. When we take on the attitude or the behavior of the worldly, we show a love for the world.
- **What is the central thought of verse 16?**
 - o *Answer:* The ways of the world and the ways of God are against each other.
- **Why are the concepts of people's cravings and their lusting after things great examples of what the world is all about?**
 - o *Answer:* Our world puts so much emphasis on possessions and material things. People crave after objects or status. This goes directly against the ways of God's Kingdom.
- **What is the central thought of verse 17?**
 - o *Answer:* The world will not last, but the ways of God will.

FINALLY >> explain to your students that the goal of this lesson is just to lay the groundwork for the next three lessons. Review the three summaries of the verses. They should look something like this:

- **We can't love the world.**
- **The ways of the world and the ways of God are against each other.**
- **The world will not last, but the ways of God will.**

Explain that now that we know the difference between the things of the world and the things of God, we have to begin to think about our attitudes toward them. John says we can't love the world and love God. Examining how close we are with the world is pretty vital.

ENGAGE : Lesson 1

>> THIS WORLD VS. GOD'S WORLD

The Pay-Off**Title:** Whose Side Are You On?**Goal:** The idea is to get your students to start thinking about their attitudes toward certain aspects of the world.**Set Up:** Provide a dry-erase board and something to write with.

FIRST > explain to your students that you will be finishing up the lesson by thinking about their attitudes toward the things of this world. Explain that you're going to list a couple of categories on the board. You are then going to help flesh out what it might look like for a 21st Century teenager to show love toward the world for the specific category. Then, you will do the same for what it means to show love toward God.

NEXT > start by writing "Media" on the board. Explain that by media, you mean music, TV, movies, magazines, and any similar content on the Internet. Ask:

- **Think for a moment about the music your friends listen to, or the movies or TV shows you and your friends watch. What is the attitude of someone who "loves the world" when it comes to these? How does he or she interact with the content in movies and music?**
 - o *Answer:* They embrace the message; they live out the values and characteristics they see and hear; they show little discretion in what they will listen to or watch; it's all about being entertained regardless of the message.
- **Now, how would someone who is not in love with the world, and is instead in love with God and His ways, interact with the same media? What would their attitude be?**
 - o *Answer:* Recognize that some of the messages go counter to God's ways; understand that entertainment is fine, but to not allow any harmful values or characteristics to creep into their lifestyles; show discretion as to what they will watch or listen to.

THEN > write the word "People" on the board. Explain that by people, you mean their attitudes toward others, how they interact with others, and how they view others. Ask:

- **If you are a "lover of the world," how do you view other people? What are your attitudes toward them? What are your interactions like?**
 - o *Answer:* See other people as insignificant; see yourself and any goals you may have as more valuable than others; entertain certain prejudices; use others for personal, professional, or even sexual gain.
- **Now, how would someone who is not in love with the world, and is instead in love with God and His ways, interact with the same people? What would his or her attitude be?**
 - o *Answer:* See people as valuable; selflessly want to meet the needs of others; help others achieve their goals; regard all people equally; never use others for personal gain.

NEXT > explain that these are just the two most prevalent ways teenagers seem to encounter the world around them. You could do the same thing for how you viewed possessions, or finances, or even social issues. (Choose another of these topics to discuss if you have time.) Ask students to think for a moment about the discussion you have just had. Ask them where they see themselves in these categories. Do they act more like a lover of the world? Or a lover of God? Challenge students to really think about where their affections lie.

FINALLY > explain that as you continue your study of *Engage*, you will quickly realize that we cannot choose to love both God and the world. We have to choose one or the other. Explain that as the study progresses, they will learn exactly what it looks like to love God as it pertains to their interaction with the world. But for now, challenge them to spend this week becoming more aware of their attitudes toward the things of this world.

Explain to students that you will be posting the *Engage* digi-posters to encourage conversation between lessons. Decide ahead of time how you will post these, whether through email, Facebook message, Facebook group page, or through your youth group's website. Challenge students to check in, read and think about the content, and to interact (if there is a method for interaction, i.e., Facebook Wall, comment section on a blog, etc.).

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

Do you have questions about a lesson?

Something that worked particularly well you want to share?

Something that didn't work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at feedback@youthministry360.com.¹<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/the%20world>²Holman Bible Dictionary. General Editor, Trent C. Butler. Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003.

>> THIS WORLD VS. GOD'S WORLD

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: 1JOHN 2:15 - 17

Define the word, "world!"

Where do you see the world? What does it look like?

Read 1 John 2:15 - 17 and come up with one key thought for each verse. Write the thoughts in the space provided:

Vs. 15: _____

Vs. 16: _____

Vs. 17: _____

