

## **Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, or individuals**

### **“Staying the Course”**

**1 John 2:12-27**

**May 31-June 1, 2014**

#### **For Starters**

1. What did you hear in this week’s message that caught your attention, or raised a question?
2. Describe a time in your life when you wanted to quit on something (someone). Why did you quit? If you didn’t quit, what kept you from quitting?

#### **Digging In**

1. Read verses 12-14. How did John encourage the followers of Christ? Make a list of the things that were true of that church.
2. John 3:16 tells us that God loved the world and here John tells us not to love the world—how does 1 John 2:15-17 help us understand the difference? Look up the following verses on
  - Lust of flesh—Romans 13:13-14; Ephesians 2:2-3
  - Lust of eyes—Genesis 3:6; Joshua 7:21; 2 Sam 11:2. (Law states the lust of the eye is the love of beauty divorced from the love of goodness)
  - Pride of life—Proverbs 16:18; 21:4
3. The warning about loving the world is followed by a warning about antichrists. What do we know about them from verses 22-23, 26? See also, 1 John 4:3 and 2 John 1:7
4. The last hour is the last part of the last days—it’s like our phrase the “11<sup>th</sup> hour”. What are the characteristics of the last days/hour from vv 18-23? See also, 2 Tim 3:1-7.
5. How were the false teachers trying to lead them astray? What can we learn from these verses (18-29)?
6. John ends with a final exhortation/word of encouragement which he repeats four times—remain in Jesus! Verse 28 answers the why we remain questions and v 29 what it looks like to remain. What does he say here?

#### **Bringing it Home**

1. Who in your life needs a word of encouragement, warning or reminder to help them stay the course? Bounce off a situation (without giving names or details) and discuss how one could go about it.
2. What are some examples of loving the world? How is our culture feeding pride and lust?
3. Where are you at right now—Walking close to God? Continuing with Him or slip sliding away? In danger of being led astray by false teaching? Following your own heart’s desires? Or doing the will of God?

#### **Digging Deeper**

John reminds them that they have the anointing (indwelling) of the Holy Spirit in their life. The Spirit of Christ will help them continue with Christ as He leads them in the truth. Meditate on John 14:16-26.