

# Walking in the Light: Renouncing Worldliness



## Teacher's Guide

### Materials

note cards; whiteboard/flipchart/chalkboard and appropriate markers; pencils; scissors; glue or tape; a box (needs to be smaller than the uncut puzzle on p. 35); cardstock paper; string

### Surveying the Source

Dan. 5:13; John 15:19; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:8, 13; 2 Pet. 3:10–12; 1 John 2:12–17.

### Plotting the Course

#### The students will:

- ▶ Understand the difference between being in the world and being of the world.
- ▶ Know why it is important that Chris-

tians stand apart from nonbelievers.

- ▶ Have a concrete idea of what they can do to separate themselves from the world yet still minister in the world.

### Preparing to Lead

“Home! And you are all here! And I’m not going to leave here ever again, because I love you all! And there’s no place like home!”\*

Imagine you are in a motel. You don’t decorate or unpack. Your dream house is at home, and the person you love most lives there. You don’t waste time worry-

ing about the motel furniture, and you call your loved one whenever possible. The motel isn’t important; you just want to go home!

Likewise, we are just visiting this earth—a motel until reach heaven. We should spend as much time with our Lord as possible and focus less on this world.

### Getting Started

**A.** Cut up the puzzle, and put it in the box. Label the box “The World.” Let each student take a puzzle piece and write their name on the back. If you have a large class, you may need more than one puzzle. Have the class or groups put their puzzles together, and secure the pieces with tape or glue. Look at the puzzle(s). *Ask:* •“What parallels can you draw between this puzzle and Christianity?” •“Will the completed puzzle fit back into the box it came in?” •“How does this reflect the way we should relate to the world as Christians?”

**B.** Make a circle with a piece of string. Have everyone stand with both hands holding the string. *Ask:* •“What limitations does holding the string enforce on you?” •“Would you want to be the first one to let go? Why or why not?” Then have one or two volunteers let go and step into the middle. *Ask those in the middle:* •“Are you still part of the circle?” •“How is being in the circle different from being part of the circle?” Discuss how this portrays Christianity and the world.

### Delving Into the Word

**A.** Ask each person to look up the verses on their puzzle piece and read

them. Make a chart and title it Worldliness versus Godliness. Make

three columns with the headings What, Why, and How. List each verse in one of the columns, and briefly discuss why each verse goes into that category. *Ask:* •“What does the Bible describe as worldly?” •“How does that differ from godliness?” •“Why should we strive to reject worldly things?” •“According to the Bible, how should we separate ourselves from the secular world?”

Next, consider Jesus’ life here on earth. *Ask:* •“How did He manage to be in the world, but not worldly?” •“What did He do physically?” •“What was His attitude?” •“The end is soon. Are you reflecting His example in your life?”

*Say:* “Throughout the ages, there have been godly people. Let’s take a look at Genesis 6:5–8; Esther 4:4–16; 9:29–32; Daniel 1; 5:13, 14; and 1 Peter 2:22–24.” Make a list of ancient and modern people who walked/are walking in God’s light. *Ask:* •“What characteristics make these people stand out?” •“Do you think it’s easier or more difficult to renounce worldliness today? Defend your answer.”

**B.** Have the class read the following verses: Genesis 6:5–9; Esther 4:4–16, 9:29–32; Daniel 1; 5:13, 14; 1 Peter

2:22–24. *Say:* “Each of the people in these verses stood apart from the world, despite trying circumstances.” *Ask:* •“What did they do to set themselves apart?” •“How did they think that would affect them?” •“What was the result?” •“Give examples of how we face similar persecution or tests today.” •“How do we usually respond?” •“Is it easier to go with the crowd or to stand apart?”

Then read the following verses: Matthew 6:1–8, 19, 24–34; Romans 12:9–21; Galatians 5:13, 14, 16–25; and 2 Peter 1:5–8. Make a list of characteristics, using one column for worldliness and one column for godliness. *Ask:* •“Which of these things are we emulating in our lives?” •“How does the attitude one must have differ between worldliness and godliness?” •“In what ways do we see more characteristics of worldliness in the media?”

Then consider what we know about the end times (1 Pet. 4:7; 2 Pet. 3:10–12; 1 John 2:17; Rev. 12:11). *Ask:* •“How do these verses help us focus less on worldly things?” •“Does that imply that we shouldn’t plan for the future? Explain.”

## Discussing the Ideas

1. Does being separate from the world mean we shouldn’t interact with non-Christians?
2. How can Christians reach people on their level without joining them there? Support your answer.
3. If someone has to ask in order to tell if you’re a Christian or not, are you really living a Christian life?

4. What habits and attitudes do you think lead to a closer relationship with Jesus and looser ties to this world?
5. Do you see a difference between having nice things and loving the things of this world? If so, what?
6. What can you change in your own life to draw closer to Jesus and farther from the world?

## Closing the Activity

Summarize the main points of the lesson. Hand out note cards and pencils. Ask each class member to write down two or three things of the world in their lives that they need to change, and how they

plan to change them to improve their relationship with Christ. The card is for them to keep as a reminder of their commitment to cling to Jesus. Ask for a volunteer to close with prayer.

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\*Spoken by Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*.

