

Series: Finding Your Way Back to God

Scripture and Background Information for September 12-18.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we launched our new series, "*Finding Your Way Back to God.*" With this series, we will address our inner longings to see if they point to something we are all looking for. Today, we will look at **1 John 2:15-17** and talk about "*Longing #1: There's got to be more.*"

Background for 1 John 2:15-17:

The letter of 1 John functions as a written sermon to encourage the church in enduring in the things they already know (1:4-5). John understood that there was a longing in the church, and he addressed that with his written sermon. For that, John repeats known teachings to help the church live its calling and live a fulfilled life.

Our text follows a teaching session in which John shows that God is light. He tells the church since God is light, the darkness of this world has lost. Since Jesus is God, God's light is in Jesus. If we have Jesus, His light is in us. If his light is in us, then the darkness of the world has no power over us. John describes the church with family terms, showing that they belong to God (2:12-14). Our text then is John's challenge to stop living in the darkness of the world. God has won over the darkness; thus, the darkness will fade away (2:17). We, as believers, nevertheless, should live in victory.

Questions to engage with the text:

1. In what ways does John describe the world? What do those descriptions represent?
2. Are the things John implicates with his description, in and of itself bad?
3. How would you compare the world to the way we think of God the Father?
4. What is the motivation for living for the Father? What brings fulfillment for our inner longings?

Note: John encourages the church to distance themselves from the darkness, the world, so that their joy made be complete. John understood that the deep longing in us can only be fulfilled by THE LIGHT. Thus, he exhorted the church to stay in the light since everything else would not close the gap they were trying to fill.