



Discipleship

Focus The world is like a current whose constant flow tries to take us away from God. If we don't have a constant flow to keep us close to God, we'll drift away. Growing in God and in grace is imperative for our spiritual development. There are three main currents Satan uses to try and pull us away from God.

Fun Do you have a favorite song that just makes you feel happy for no reason or puts an instant smile on your face? What's the name of the song and why does it make you smile? Share with the group.

Review Key Scriptures: Mark 4:7, Luke 10:17–19

- The Cares of This World:* 1 Peter 5:7

Jesus said the cares of this world can choke out the Word. To “care” is to be drawn in a different direction and to be distracted; the opposite response is to bring it before the Lord in prayer. Through prayer we transfer our cares to God and by giving Him our burdens we're able to resist worldly current that can draw us away from God.
- The Deceitfulness of Riches:* 1 Timothy 6:9–10,17

Satan is trying to deceive us to trust in riches and to love money. The problem isn't money; it's how we view it. It's about whether we love, desire and trust in it. If you're thinking, “I either need God to come through for me or someone to give me some money,” then you're not putting your trust in God. God wants us to love, desire and trust in Him only.
- The Desire for Things:* Matthew 6:31–33

The desire for things causes restlessness in us and even depression. It can also cause us to be distracted and to have our joy stolen. The key is not to

pursue things but to pursue God because He is the only one who can satisfy. Spending time with God rekindles our passion for Him. If we fall passionately in love with Jesus we will not have a lust for other things.

Group Dynamics Idea Enjoying a meal together is a great way to cultivate relationships within your small group. Make plans to have one of your small group meetings be just having a meal together. Ask everyone to bring a part of the meal or just a covered dish. Keep it simple and enjoy some wonderful fellowship.

- Discuss**
1. Can you think of a time God put a scripture on your heart or spoke to you in another way that was encouraging? Was it easy to hold onto this word or did the currents of the world seem to distract you from the encouragement? Explain.
 2. What happens when God gives us a word and we don't hold on to it or fight to remember it? How can we be sure not to lose our focus on what God is speaking to us and encouraging us in?
 3. Many distractions and things to keep us from an intimate relationship with God. What do you think are some of the biggest distractions we face in today's culture? How can we be diligent to resist these currents?
 4. What does drawing closer to God look like to you? Would you be different if you were drawing closer to God daily? Explain.
 5. How can we be intentional to be moving closer to the Lord on a daily basis? What are some practical ways we can resist the world's current and instead move closer to the Lord? Share your responses.

- Take Home**
- As we conclude, remember the following:
- The key to resisting the world's current and being drawn away from God is by intentionally drawing closer to the Lord on a daily basis.
 - The cares of the world will try to choke out the Word of God and the promises He has given to us.
 - The deceitfulness of riches will try to ensnare us into thinking all we need is money to fix our problems, but the truth is only God can meet our every need.

- The desire for things tries to draw us away from God by stirring up lust within us for everything other than Jesus. When we're passionately in love with Jesus there will be no room in our hearts for anything else.

Pray Father, thank You for sending Jesus to reconcile us back to You. Thank You for loving us even in our sinful state. Thank You for always seeing the best in us and believing in us. Help us to only put our trust in You and to draw near to You every day. I pray we would be consumed with a passion for Jesus and that a spirit of revival would burn within us. Help us to bring Your love to others this week and to draw closer to You in all we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip When time allows, call different members in your group during the week just to check on them and to let them know you were thinking about them. Ask them if they have any prayer requests and then pray with them before you hang up. This helps the members of your group to feel connected even during the week.