

In The World But Not Of The World

John 17:13-18 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still **in the world**, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they **are not of the world** any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."

John 1:10-13 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 15:19 **If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.**

1 Peter 2:10-12 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

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Just before Jesus was arrested the Bible records Him praying. In John 17:13-17, Jesus says we, like himself, are **in** the world but we are not _____ the world.

What does Jesus mean, "they are not of the world?"

The Amish set a powerful example by literally trying to "keep themselves unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).



If we are not of the world what are we (John 1:10-13)?

We are "children of God." Jesus said, in John 15:19 we do not _____ to the world but were _____ out of the world.

If a person from another planet came here we would say that they are not of this world. We would know that their home was on their own planet. If Christians aren't from here where are we from?

1 Peter 2:10-12 refers to us as aliens.

Read James 4:4 and 1 John 2:15-17. How far should we go in rejecting worldly things?

Should we be like the Amish?

Some Christians believe that participating in Halloween is involvement with evil and darkness. What do you think?

Can Christians do Halloween or should we not participate?

What should our costumes look like?



In Jesus' prayer above, He says, "My prayer is not that you ..."

Jesus completes the prayer by saying, "As you sent me into the world ..."

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

God leaves us on Earth for a reason and with a mission. How should we live our lives?

The Goal Of This Lesson:

The goal of this lesson is to explain a seemingly hard to understand concept of “being *in* the world but not *of* the world.” We discuss how much we should be part of or apart from the society in which we live. We talk a little about our *real* home then finish with “The Great Commission” as what we should be doing with our time here on earth.

Pre-Lesson Activity:

Show the YouTube snippet of Star Trek, Deep Space 9 embedded on the website. In the snippet, Commander Sisko is speaking with “non-corporeal” beings that watch over a planet called Bajor. They keep referring to Sisko as being *of* Bajor even tho he was born on earth. In the course of the TV series it is revealed that Sisko’s father is from earth but his mother was actually one of these alien beings. This TV scene illustrates Jesus’ birth and shows that His home is with God in the heavenly realms.

Leading the lesson:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions for those verses. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it

We use the Amish lifestyle to show that God’s intention for us being here is not to be separate from “pagans” but to live good lives *among* them (1 Peter 2:10-12).

Read Ephesians 2:6 (not on the lesson plan) after the question about John 1:10-13. Here we see the term “heavenly realms” explaining where we are from and where we will go when our time on earth is done. This is all that will be said about heavenly realms lest our focus turn from our mission to the current preoccupation of some “Christians” with the mystical and miraculous.

We next discuss how different we should be compared to non-believers. We use Halloween as an illustration. Kids love having fun at Halloween. Will they feel left out if they don’t get to participate? Does being Christian mean you have to be left out of things? In light of 1 John 2:15-17, what other worldly desires should Christians refrain from? I love to travel. I also love coffee and bacon. Is that wrong? But, I’d give it up in a second for Jesus and Heaven.

The main point of the lesson is to show what Christians are to be doing as long as we find ourselves on earth. The great commission, spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations.

Take Prayer Requests:

Always ask the kids for prayer requests. Write them in your prayer journal. Check on how things have turned out with the previous weeks concerns.