Love is the Brand Week #2 Small Group Notes

Introduction:

When was a time that you were torn between two choices? How do you respond in these moments? What helps you to decide?

Describe a time when you chose to do devote your time to something lesser and you wish you hadn't.

1 John continues to write more about how we can test the genuineness of our faith. Today we see that those who truly love and follow Christ must not fall in love with the things of this world, but rather with the Father who gives them everything they need. A Christian chooses love over lesser things and that love overcomes the world.

Discuss:

1. Read 1 John 2:12-14

Ask:

- In which of the groups would you consider yourself? Why?
- ❖ What do you think John's intentions are in addressing the church in the way that he does? Do you think you would be offended if someone addressed you as 'little child'?
- ❖ Read verses 12-14 again. What is true for all believers regardless of their level of maturity?
- How have you seen in your life the impact of the message John shares to each spiritual stage?
- 2. Read 1 John 2:15-17

Ask:

❖ What does it mean to "love the world"? When have you felt (or when do you feel) pulled toward that type of lifestyle?

- ❖ Spend some time reflecting on the lusts of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and pride in possessions. Are there any areas in your life where these temptations are waging war?
- How does Jesus set an example for how to resist each of these temptations?
- ❖ John argues that the pleasures of this world are fleeting or empty in what they provide. How do you see this in today's culture? In your own life?
- How does increasing our love for God help defeat these sinful desires? How can we fight against the wrong type of love in our lives?

Close:

What is your plan to implement this lesson into action this week? Get creative.

How can we be praying for one another?