

becoming

WORLDLY SAINTS



CAN YOU SERVE JESUS
AND STILL ENJOY YOUR LIFE?

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Study Guide

Becoming Worldly Saints Study Guide

Week 1: The Tension of Life (chapters 1-4)

A. Video Questions

1. Why is it a good sign that we ask the question, “Can I serve Jesus and still enjoy my life?” When is it a bad sign to ask this question?
2. Are you more tempted to slight the natural or the supernatural, creation or redemption? How might you give more attention to the side you neglect?

B. Scripture

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12, which instructs us how to live in order to please God. How many of these commands are exclusively spiritual? Which commands focus on the physical? How do these commands integrate creation and redemption, our human and Christian lives?
2. Read the story of Jesus appearing to his fishing disciples in John 21:1-14. If fishing is an enjoyment of life, how does this story answer the question, “Can you serve Jesus and still enjoy your life?” How is Jesus more important than enjoying life? How does Jesus contribute to its enjoyment?

C. Application

1. Where do you feel the tension between serving Jesus and enjoying life?
2. What area of life do you need to submit to Christ? Where do you need to lighten up and have more fun?

Week 2: *Where Are We?* (chapters 5-6)

A. Video Questions

1. Can you think of examples in books and songs that teach a too low view of creation? How might you fix the lyrics so they are true?

2. Why does the Christian faith require a good creation?

B. Scripture

1. Read Psalm 104 to learn more about God's relationship to the earth. What does God do with and for his creation each day? How does the psalmist respond to God's care for the earth?

2. Compare John 14:1-4 with Revelation 21:1-5, which finishes John's thought. Where does John say God and we will live forever? Why is this location significant?

C. Application

1. Write a prayer that properly praises God for both his acts of creation and redemption.

2. What can you do to better care for your body and the earth? Why does God want you to take care of both?

Week 3: Right Living in God's Good World (chapters 7-8)

A. Video Questions

1. Why is it important to remember that our bodies and the physical world are good? What problems do we create when we blame them for our problems?

2. Is it possible to have a too high view of creation? Why or why not?

B. Scripture

1. Compare John 3:16 with 1 John 2:15-17. How do you reconcile God's love for the world with his command that we not love it?

2. Read Hebrews 11:13-16. How does the distinction between things and actions and the final location of heaven (Revelation 21:1-5) help us interpret this passage? What exactly were the Old Testament saints hoping for? Would this promise be fulfilled in heaven or on earth?

C. Application

1. Where will you enjoy creation today?

2. How will your pleasure in creation help you to better enjoy God?

Week 4: Why Are We Here? God and Neighbor (chapters 9-10)

A. Video Questions

1. How does your life show that Jesus is the pearl of great price? How does your life show that he also is yeast?

2. Why does loving God require loving others?

B. Scripture

Read Amos 2:4-8 and Hosea 4:1-19. Why does idolatry always lead to injustice? What is the connection between serving false gods and hurting others?

C. Application

1. What aspect of your life is most attractive to those who do not know Jesus? What aspect might turn them off from following him?

2. Who do you need to serve for Jesus' sake?

Week 5: Why Are We Here? Work and Rest (chapters 11-13)

A. Video Questions

1. How did the Reformation free ordinary Christians to lead normal lives?
2. Why might a liberated Christian still find value in keeping the Sabbath?

B. Scripture

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24. How does Jesus free us to find satisfaction in any wholesome calling?
2. Read Colossians 3:17-24. How might even the menial tasks of slaves be done for Jesus and receive his reward? What does this mean for your job?

C. Application

1. What calling do you need to rededicate to the Lord Jesus? How might you do it better for him?
2. State the reason why you either do or do not observe a Sabbath rest. Is this a reason that God accepts?

Week 6: What's Wrong with Us? (chapters 14-16 and appendix)

A. Video Questions

1. Why is evil an unsolvable mystery? What new problems would we create if we thought we finally had solved it?

2. Why is it important to believe the Fall happened?

B. Scripture

1. Read Romans 5:12-21. What did Paul believe about Adam's Fall? What does this mean for us?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:26 and Revelation 20:10-15. What is our last enemy to be defeated, cast into the Lake of Fire four verses after Satan is thrown in? Why is it important to remember that though God can bring good things out of death (Philippians 1:21-24), death itself is not a good thing (Philippians 2:25-27)?

C. Application

1. Where must you stop celebrating the Fall?

2. Why must you stop entertaining yourself with sin?

Week 7: What Is the Gospel? Where Is the Kingdom? (chapters 17-19)

A. Video Questions

1. Why are we unable to make the first move toward God?

2. What words or metaphors would you use to convey the biblical meaning of sin?

B. Scripture

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Acts 10:34-43. What do these passages say is the gospel?

2. Read Matthew 5:14-16 and 1 Peter 2:12. How does God say we can draw attention to the gospel?

C. Application

1. Who needs to hear the gospel from you?

2. How are you bearing witness to the kingdom of God? How else might God want you to serve?

Week 8: What Is Our Destiny? (chapters 20-22)

A. Video Questions

1. How will life on the New Earth be better than life now? How will it be similar?

2. How does the gospel liberate us from the expectations of others while raising God's expectations for us?

B. Scripture

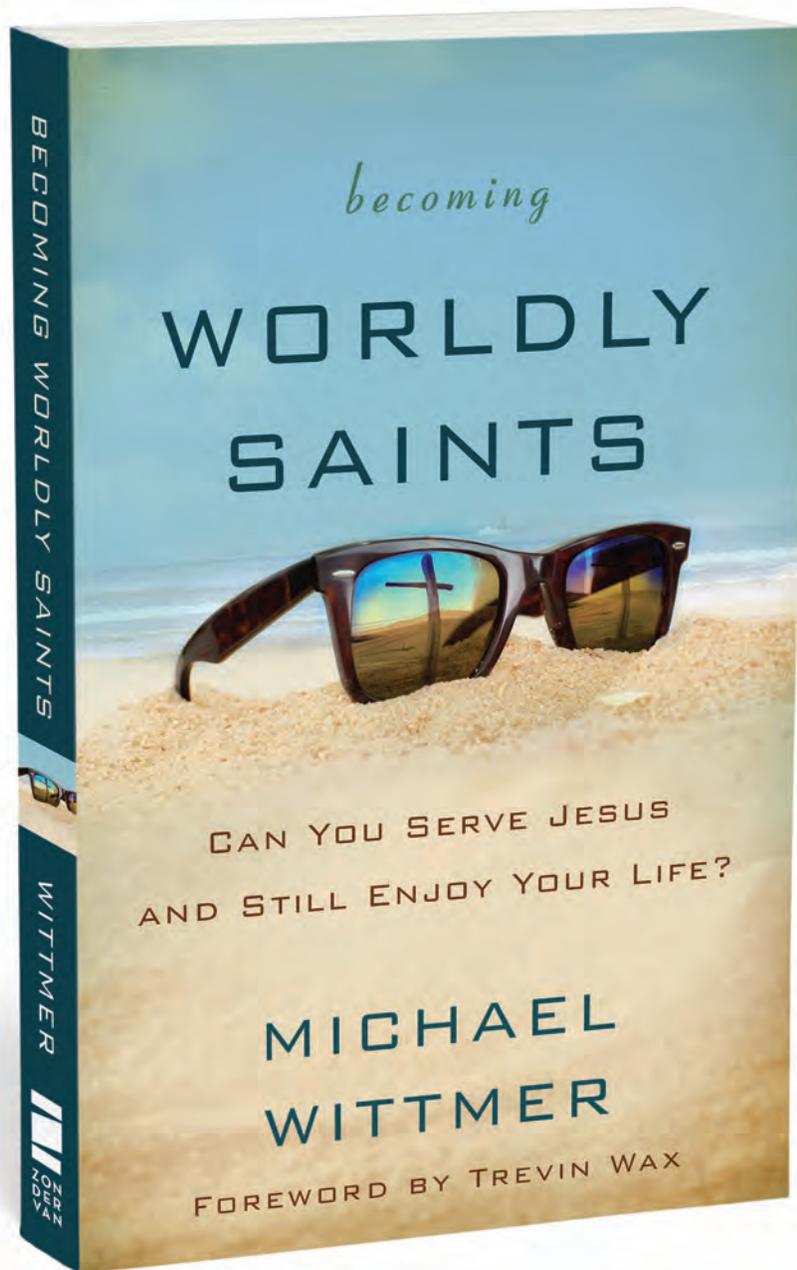
1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-34. Why does the gospel require a bodily resurrection, both for Jesus and for us?

2. Read Romans 8:18-25. Why is it important that God saves not only souls but also his entire creation?

C. Application

1. How has this study changed your view of God and your earthly life?

2. How will you live differently? How will you live better?



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