

STUDY GUIDE

September 13, 2026

START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt



Father, thank You for calling us to be one with You and one with each other on mission. We confess that it is often easier for us to either retreat from the world into our own safe bubbles or get completely swept away by the noise and culture around us. Give us honest hearts today as we examine how we listen to Your voice. Grant us the wisdom and grace to live in the world without being shaped by it, fully surrendered to Your lordship and powered by Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

- John 17:13–18
- John 15:18–21
- Romans 12:1–2
- 1 Peter 2:11–12

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. Which "headphone mode" do you find yourself slipping into most often in your daily life?
 - a. Noise-canceling mode (trying to isolate or build a safe Christian bubble)
 - b. Noise-canceling off (absorbing everything culture says and blending in)
 - c. Transparency mode (remaining present in the world while prioritizing Jesus' voice)

2. Jesus prayed not to take us out of the world, but to protect us while we are in it. Why do you think our natural instinct is often to build a "fortress" or hit the eject button when culture gets chaotic?
3. What is the difference between fleeting happiness based on circumstances and the "full measure of joy" Jesus promises? How does staying daily paired to the Source impact your operating system when life gets messy?
4. Sanctification is described as "surrendering more, not just doing more." What is one competing voice or expectation (anxiety, culture, past experiences, approval) that frequently competes with God's truth in your mind?
5. The sermon noted that "the world is not your enemy—it's your assignment." How does viewing people around us through the metaphor of a teabag changing hot water shift the way we approach our workplaces, neighborhoods, or families?

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

1.Audit Your Audio Source:

Identify one area of daily "noise" (e.g., social media scrolling, news, podcasts) that you can dial down this week. Replace 15 minutes of that time with reading Scripture or being still in prayer.

2.Activate Transparency Mode:

Choose one relationship or environment in your week (a neighbor, coworker, or family member who doesn't walk with Jesus) where you can be intentionally present—listening well, showing kindness, and reflecting Christ without an agenda.

3.Surrender a Specific Concern:

Bring one area where you've been relying on your own thoughts or attempting to control the outcome, and actively pray to yield it under Jesus' lordship.