

## ***Undivided: Loving God above All Else***

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“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” - 1 John 2:15

There are few things more powerful than witnessing someone throw all of themselves after a cause or a commitment. When we as people get behind something with all our energy and focus, it’s remarkable what we can do.

The opposite is true as well. So often we see the broken results of someone giving only a portion of their focus and energy to something – a cause, a task, a relationship. Half-hearted commitment is really no commitment at all.

This is especially true when it comes to our faith. The Bible is clear: God expects and deserves our undivided affection and commitment. Anything less falls short of who we are called to be as Christ-followers. You’ve seen the power of an undivided devotion to God. Don’t you want to see this kind of faith in your students?

*Undivided: Loving God above All Else* will boldly challenge your students to pursue Christ with single-minded devotion, discovering that the only love worth giving God is an undivided one.

### **Small Group Outlines**

#### **Session 1: Choosing Sides**

**What We Want Students to Learn:** To help students understand that there can only be one object of their heart’s affection: God, or the world.

**Main Scripture:** 1 John 2:15-17, Romans 12:2, 3 John 11

**Session Snapshot:** One of the great points of tension in our lives as Christ-followers is that we are saved from the world but left to live in it. There’s a good reason for this, of course: we are God’s plan to make His name known in this world. But there is tension because we live as Christians in a world set in contrast to the ways of God. Knowing this, God makes it clear through His Word where our allegiance should lie. We cannot be divided. We must choose God over the world. We must love God over and above anything the world has to offer. This session will introduce this concept to your students and begin to drill down on what this looks like lived out in their lives.

#### **Session 2: How to Pursue God**

**Session Purpose:** To help students discover the key to HOW they live as people who love God and not the world.

**Main Scripture:** Ephesians 5:1-2

**Supplemental Scripture:** Luke 6:36, Romans 15:7, Ephesians 4:32, 1 Peter 1:15, 1 John 3:7, Philippians 2:5-7, Ephesians 4:22-24

**Session Snapshot:** In the first session, you laid the foundation for your study of Undivided by sharing Scriptures call to love God and not the world. What we want to do in this lesson is to help your students understand HOW to do this. It's one thing to help them see the expectation God has on their lives. It's another to show them how to make this happen. This lesson will introduce your students to the concept of "imitation." How do we live out the command to follow God and not the world? We live like Him. We imitate Him and His ways.

### Session 3: To Live Undivided

**Session Purpose:** To help students consider the big-picture view of someone who is undivided in their love of God.

**Main Scripture:** Colossians 3:1-3, Matthew 12:33-35, Galatians 6:7-10

**Session Snapshot:** You have shown students the call to live on undivided faith. You have taught them HOW to do this. In this session, you'll show students what it looks like when someone practically lives an undivided faith out in the world. Students will think about how they live out their faith in terms of a few different categories: their thoughts, their actions, their words, and their hearts. The goal is to help students bridge the gap between concepts they hopefully understand and agree with and the application of these concepts in their lives.

### Session 4: Not Alone

**Session Purpose:** To help encourage and motivate students by reminding them that the Holy Spirit is the source of their strength and power when it comes to living an undivided life.

**Main Scripture:** Galatians 5:16-25

**Supplemental Scripture:** Romans 8:14

**Session Snapshot:** As you wrap up Undivided, Lesson 4 leaves students with a powerful message: they aren't alone, nor do they have to live the undivided life under their own power. The Holy Spirit gives them the power to love and pursue God over all else. By drawing on this strength, and by seeking to follow the Spirit, their lives will be powerful examples of God's character. This lesson will both provide students with some real application points and guide them to a little introspective searching about how well they listen to the Spirit's guidance.