

MAD WORLD

LIVING SANE IN A CRAZY WORLD

Mad World Series

Small Group Material

Participant Guide

Part 2 - "The Easy Way"

May 7th, 2017

Bottom Line: *The end of self-centeredness comes when you find your sufficiency in Christ.*

Study Verses: *1 John 2:15-17, James 4:4-7, Matthew 7:13-14, Proverbs 14:12*

Key Points

- *When you find the easy way to be hard, it isn't because it's hard. It's because the easy way only leads you towards death.*
- *The narrow way is hard because it is hard to stay true to what is true.*
- *The wide road is easy because it seems right and it is easy to believe.*
- *If anyone loves the Father, the love of the world is not in them.*
- *We live in a world that has the power to make you think and feel whatever they want.*
- *You are not going to find what you're looking for in a hurry.*
- *We must give up the allure of what is easy and live in submission to what is true.*
- *We can act on what we believe instead of simply reacting to what we see and feel.*
- *We've been entrusted to care and leverage this world by God. To ignore this call is what leaves us mad.*
- *The narrow road requires us to slow down, merge and submit everything to Him.*

ENCOUNTER

- Think of a time when you found yourself saying, "Life is hard." Why did you describe your situation in this way? What do you believe was the source of this tension?
- We live in a world that has the power to make you think and feel whatever they want. What are some lies from culture that you fell for? How were these lies disguised as truth?
- How does the allure of this world create madness within us?
- As believers we're called to walk upon the narrow road. When you hear "narrow road," what imagery and emotions come to mind? How does your answer influence your willingness to follow this way?

FORMATION

- Read Matthew 7:13-14. What makes the wide road easy? Why is the way of Jesus hard? What actions and beliefs differentiate the two?
- Read James 4:4-7. How are friendship with the world, humility/pride and submission tied together? What connection do they have with each other? Why is grace given to those who are humble but opposition felt for those who are prideful?
- Read 1 John 2:15-17 and Proverbs 14:12. According to this passage, what three things fuel the world? How does the allure of these three things cloud our judgement and create madness in our relationships?

EXPRESSION

- Where are you finding it challenging to stick on the narrow road and stay true to what is true?
- You're not going to find what you're looking for in a hurry. Where do you need to slow down and pay attention? What are you missing by being in a hurry?
- The narrow road requires us to slow down, merge and submit everything to Him. What are you unwilling to surrender? Why are you reluctant to let go in this area? What would surrendering this thing look like?