

Study Guide



1 John 5:1-5 "Overcoming the World" Nov. 27, 2016

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

This passage of 1 John can be thought of as a revisiting of the previous ideas, a reunion and reuniting of the themes of what authentic Christianity looks like. John starts off by revisiting each of the three tests in turn, then he proceeds to outline how they are all connected to one another, and finally he finishes this passage by showing us what this faith that we proclaim allows us to lay hold to, victory over the world.

For more in depth study check out the following pages...

Walk Prayer & Missions

December 18-28—South Sudan

For further information visit

norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

November 27th— Family Christmas Program Practice

December 11th— Church Picnic

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Jesus?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[What A Beautiful Name](#)":

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring

The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again
You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is The Name of
Jesus

What a powerful Name it is The Name of
Jesus

Word (45 Minutes)

Born of God (1-3a)

This first verse establishes the first test; if you proclaim that Jesus is the Messiah promised by God, you are truly **“born of God.”** This establishment serves two purposes. First, it is likely meant to contrast against a rejection of Christ that was proclaimed by the false teachers that the readers were encountering (Kruse, 2000), secondly it establishes the basis for our claim to victory later in the passage; Christ’s divinity was the key to his victory over death and our faith in this is the key to our victory. The second part of this verse is drawn from a natural observation that any person would be familiar with **“everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him.”** This “born of Him” statement does not strictly refer to Christ, but more to our fellow brothers and sisters who have experienced the same rebirth that we claim. It is not normal or natural for a person to claim love for an earthly father without claiming love for the sons and daughters of that father, which is all the more logical when speaking of a heavenly Father. Stott summarizes it this way, “It is as impossible to love the children of God without loving God as it is to love God without loving his children (Stott, 2009).” *You simply cannot claim to love God without loving His children.* These two statements intimately link the first and second tests in this way; if you claim Christ, you must belong to God’s family and if you belong to God’s family you must love your brothers and sisters. This thought is continually hammered home in the next two verses, in addition to the introduction and unification of these two tests with the third of obedience.

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.”

These two verses connect and tie up all the tests of authenticity. They state that our love for the children of God is the key to loving God and keeping his commandments. You can hear Jesus speaking of how the commandments can be summarized, love God and love one another. The spiritual birth that produced our love of God must also produce love for others as it must also produce a lifelong commitment to keeping commandments. However, these are not independent concepts; keeping God’s commandments in their most basic form involves loving your fellow believers, and you would be wrong if you claimed to love God and love your brothers and sisters without following his commandments. This brings us around the circle and illustrates an important aspect of these tests; they cannot be claimed individually. You cannot say that you follow His commandments and love His people without claiming that Christ is lord, you cannot claim that Christ is Lord and claim to keep his commandments without loving, and you cannot claim Christ as lord and claim to love your brothers and sisters without obeying his commandments.

Love One Another (3b-4)

This passage starts with encouragement, **“And his commandments are not burdensome (v.3).”** This is meant to tie back to the previous passage. We should not struggle to maintain these commandments because if our faith is true, they will flow naturally. Kruse states it much the same way, “The command to love one another does not prove burdensome for those who know God because they have been born of God and love for others who have also been born of God is a natural outworking of that (Kruse, 2000).” However, the encouragement doesn’t stop here. John anticipates that his audience might wonder how this can be made so simple. How can I possibly love my brother in a meaningful way when we’re both flawed, and in possession of worldly natures and desires? He answers it with verse 4, **“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.”** We know that our position with God puts us in a position of victory over all things worldly, whether intrinsic or extrinsic, whether emotional or physical.

A true believer can claim victory over their own sinful nature and thus they freely love God and love others without a burden. Where does this victory come from? It comes from our faith in Christ. John speaks of Christ's ultimate victory on the cross; the defeat of death and destruction of sin's power over those who claim Christ as Lord. Our faith rests in this and because of this we can claim the final and total victory that is guaranteed though we may struggle in the day to day.

Victory Over Death (5)

This final verse is the neat little bow that ties everything back; it closes the loop of thought established in verse 1 and brings us back to where we started. This belief in Jesus as the Son of God is one of the key tests that John has spent all this time referencing, so this puts us back where we started carrying a new benefit beyond the fellowship and desire for obedience. We can now claim victory over the world, which enables the outpouring of obedience and love for one another through destruction of the power of our earthly nature. The power of Jesus that was manifested in his resurrection and defeat of sin and death is greater than anything on earth. Marshall summarizes it this way, "Jesus Christ has defeated death and anybody who can defeat death can defeat anything (Marshall, 1978)."

1. Read 1 John 4:21. Who are our brothers that we are to love? Where does that start?
2. Look at verse 1. What are the 2 results of the New Birth John points out? Are they interdependent?
3. V.2. What is the evidence or proof we love fellow believers and God?
4. In V.3. What is love for God? See John 14:15, 24.
5. Vv. 4, 5. How do believers overcome the world?

1. What are the commandments we are to obey?

Google: Commands of Christ for this exercise. {short list provided below}

2. From that list, are there any that you struggle to put into practice? If Yes, why?
3. What do you think John means using the word burdensome?
4. How are the commands of Christ not burdensome?
5. Explain the relationship between love & obedience.
6. What does overcoming the world look like in practical terms?
7. Share evidences of victory over the world. How they were practically achieved?

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in 1 John to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you lead your groups! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Commands of Christ

Repent (Matthew 4:17).

Follow Me (Matthew 4:19).

Rejoice (Matthew 5:11–12).

Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16).

Honor God's Law (Matthew 5:17).

Be Reconciled (Matthew 5:23–25).

Do Not Lust (Matthew 5:28–30).

Keep Your Word (Matthew 5:37).

Go the Second Mile (Matthew 5:38–42).

Love Your Enemies (Matthew 5:44–46).

Lay Up Treasures (Matthew 6:19–21).

Seek God's Kingdom (Matthew 7:1–3).

Do Unto Others (Matthew 7:12).

Choose the Narrow Way (Matthew 7:13–14).

Pray for Laborers (Matthew 9:37–38).

Fear Not (Matthew 10:28).

Take My Yoke (Matthew 11:28–30).

Honor Your Parents (Matthew 15:4).

Beware of Leaven (Matthew 16:6).

Deny Yourself (Luke 9:23–25).

Go to Offenders (Matthew 18:15–17).

Forgive Offenders (Matthew 18:21–22).

Honor Marriage (Matthew 19:4–6).

Be a Servant (Matthew 20:26–28).

Be a House of Prayer (Matthew 21:13).

Bring In the Poor (Luke 14:12–14).

Love the Lord (Matthew 22:37–38).

Love Your Neighbor (Matthew 22:39–40).

Watch and Pray (Matthew 26:41).

Baptize My Disciples (Matthew 28:19).

Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19–20).

Model Answers

Examine The Text

1. Those who have believe Jesus in the Christ. In our local fellowship.
2. Love for the Father, and love for other born again believers. No.
3. We love God, we love our brothers and we obey his commandments.
4. Keeping His commandments.
5. By faith in Jesus Christ.