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Session 5 Leader Guide

1 John 4:17 - 5:12 - Overcoming the World

BIG IDEA: No matter what we face, the world does not have the final say in our lives. Through faith in Jesus, God gives His children the power to overcome. Our victory isn't found in our own strength, but in Christ's power working in us.

OPEN — WHEN YOU FEEL POWERLESS

Opening Question: Think about a time when you felt like something was completely out of your control. **How did feeling powerless affect the way you responded?**

Read: 1 John 4:17–5:5

- Everyone faces pressure, temptation, and difficult circumstances.
- Sometimes those situations can make us feel trapped or powerless.
- John reminds us that God's children have **already been given victory through Christ**.
- We don't face the battles of this world alone.

1. OUR FAITH OVERCOMES THE WORLD

Read: 1 John 5:4–5

"And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." — 1 John 5:4

John uses the word **"overcome"** repeatedly. It carries the idea of conquering or experiencing victory.

Through faith in Jesus:

- We belong to God's family.
- We have passed from death to life.
- We belong to a new kingdom.
- We can face temptation, pressure, and spiritual battles from a position of victory.

Our circumstances don't determine our victory. Jesus does.

2. STOP TRYING TO OVERCOME ALONE

Tony compares a **high jumper and a pole vaulter**.

The high jumper represents trying to clear the obstacle using our own strength. The pole vaulter has something beyond his own ability that lifts him over it.

Tony uses the illustration to show the difference between **trying to overcome on our own and relying on God's power.**

God has given us:

- His power
- His Holy Spirit
- His Word
- Other believers to walk with us

Victory isn't about trying harder. It's about depending more deeply on God.

3. GOD HAS GIVEN US A TESTIMONY

Read: 1 John 5:6–10

John wants believers to know they can confidently trust Jesus.

Our faith isn't built on an empty promise.

John points to God's testimony about His Son and reminds us that **God does not lie**.

We have:

- The truth of Jesus
- The Word of God
- The witness of the Holy Spirit

All of these point us back to the truth that **Jesus can be trusted.**

4. VICTORY DOESN'T MEAN NO BATTLES

Following Jesus doesn't mean God will remove every difficult situation.

Sometimes He allows us to **go through the battle** while giving us the strength to overcome it.

Tony says:

"You're an overcomer, know that, believe that, live that, and then testify."

The battles we face can become part of our testimony as we see God's faithfulness through them.

God may not always deliver us from the battle, but He promises to be faithful through it.

5. OUR ULTIMATE VICTORY IS ETERNAL LIFE

Read: 1 John 5:11–12

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“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.” — 1 John 5:11

Our greatest hope isn't that every problem will disappear.

Our hope is that because of Jesus, **our future is secure**.

- The world doesn't get the final word.
- Our suffering doesn't get the final word.
- Our failures don't get the final word.
- **Jesus gets the final word.**

God has made us His children and promised eternal life through His Son.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Overcoming the world means:

- Trust Jesus instead of your own strength.
- Remember that God's power is greater than what you're facing.
- Rely on the Holy Spirit and God's Word.
- Let other believers walk through battles with you.
- Remember that your ultimate victory is eternal life through Jesus.

We don't fight for victory—we face our battles knowing that Jesus has already given us victory.

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GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When you feel powerless or overwhelmed, what's usually your first response—try harder, give up, worry, pray, ask for help, or something else? Why?

2. Tony compares trying to overcome on our own to a high jumper and relying on God's power to a pole vaulter. Where are you most tempted to depend on your own strength instead of God's?

3. What do you think it means practically to face a temptation, problem, or pressure from a position of victory rather than defeat?

4. Can you think of a time when God gave you strength to get through something rather than simply removing the problem? What did that experience teach you about Him?

5. Why can it sometimes be difficult to trust that Jesus is dependable when our circumstances aren't changing the way we hoped?

6. Tony says, “You're an overcomer, know that, believe that, live that, and then testify.” What part of your story could encourage someone else who is facing a battle right now?

7. What's one battle, pressure, or temptation you're facing right now that you need to stop fighting in your own strength? What would depending on God's power look like this week?