

# OVERCOME!

with I John

*'Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God'*



Handouts to help you read & understand –  
for personal Bible study, reading the Gospel with a friend or with a group

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Session      **THEME: The fake version of Christianity**

### 1. Start with prayer. Then look at this icebreaker question.      10 minutes to get started

For Christians, it is good and important to share their lives. As a group, you do not come together just for some information. You come together for transformation. This implies that sometimes you will share that you have stumbled or sinned in something. You have confessed it to Jesus. You share it, so that you may not fall in sin again. It also implies that sometimes you will share with your brother or sister that you observe a problem in her, or in him. So that he/she can deal with it. These are not easy things!!! The icebreaker question today is: can you mention things that help establish a culture wherein you practice these things? And which things hinder such a culture?

### 2. Read I John 1:1 – 2:1    Read again: I John 1:5 – 2:1      20 – 25 minutes to answer these questions

- Try to discover what the structure is of this passage – how it is built up.
- God is Light, in Him is no darkness at all. What does that imply for our fellowship with Him?
- Look at all the 'if we say' statements. What is the problem of the person who says these things?

NB: the 'if-we-say' statements may have their background in the group of people who left the fellowship (see 2:19)

- After the 'if-we-say' – statements John gives the truly Christian alternative. What strikes you, if you look at the statements about the alternative?
- There can be weak and immature fellowships and mature fellowships. There can be a great variety in fellowships, concerning social and cultural backgrounds. But the main thing that counts is whether true Christianity is at the centre of a fellowship. Looking at our passage, how can we discern between true and false?
- A Christian church that is truly Christian, but weak, has the risk to even become a weak false church. If it takes sin lightly more and more and ignores sin. A Christian church that is truly Christian but weak has the challenge to grow into a mature, truly Christian church. What is essential to promote the growth and to avoid the risk?

### 3. Apply and end with prayer.

There may be something that you have kept for yourself for a very long time. Maybe it still going on. Maybe it has already been dealt with. Maybe it is big. Maybe it is not such a big thing. Take some minutes of silence. Don't feel pressure. But feel free, if there is something that you want to bring to the light and share. And let's keep this confidential!

### Digging deeper (information to read before or after the meeting)

In Genesis you see how Adam and Eve tried to cover and hide themselves for God. But God didn't deal with sin in that way. He asked them what they had done, so that they would confess. God deals deeply with sin! In Psalm 19 you see that God's holy law is compared to the light of the sun. As the sun provides physical light, so that we can see things, so God's holy law provides moral light, which makes us aware of sin. With such awareness we may go to Jesus, our great High Priest. About this you can read in Hebrews 9:11-14.