

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

3rd Session **THEME: How not to hate what should be loved**

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

The one who has come to know Jesus Christ and has been saved by Him, has been saved from the condemnation of God's law. Still, the one who is really saved, will not feel free to sin, but will want to keep the commandments of God and of Jesus. Can you give reasons why?

2. Read twice I John 2:3-11 20 – 25 minutes to answer these questions

Look again at verses 3-5a.

- Why is the love of God perfected in the person who keeps the commandments?

Look again at verses 5b-6.

- To walk like Jesus shows abiding in Jesus, shows fellowship with Jesus and with God. But isn't it impossible for us, sinners, to start walking like Jesus?

Look again at verses 7-8

- What strikes you in these verses?
- Read Ephesians 5:8-16. Then look again at these verses. What have you learnt?

Look again at verses 9-11

- What strikes you in these verses?
- John doesn't talk about love of the neighbour in these verses, but about love of the brother. He means: the brother who wants to keep the commandments. The person who is not born of God can find it very difficult to love such a brother and may even be inclined to hate him. Why?

3. Apply and end with prayer.

Read Matthew 5:14-16. Take some minutes of silence. Is there an area wherein the Lord wants you to let your light shine (and to obey him), but you struggle a bit, you find it hard and difficult? Share and also share your prayer-request in this. Then end with prayer.

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

God's commandments are often compared with light. See for instance Psalm 19, Psalm 119. As God is light, He is the One Who knows how we can show His light in the visible world; in other words, how we can reflect His moral goodness, holiness and perfection. This is what the commandments make clear.

Our natural problem however, is our sinful nature. Unless we are born again, we will not keep God's commandments. See for instance Romans 8:7-8, John 3:19-21

Therefore, to love and keep God's commandments, we do not only need help. We need a new nature. We need to be born of God. Read now John 1:1-18 and John 3:1-21. You will see how deeply I John is connected to what John has written in his Gospel.