

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

6th Session **THEME: A loved family**

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

Maybe not all of you have always gone to church and believed in the Lord Jesus. Some may not have been raised up with Christian faith. Some were used to go to church, but stopped going at a certain moment. However, today you are here. What made you come today (or even: come back)?

2. Read twice I John 2:28-3:10 20 – 25 minutes to answer these questions

Look again at 2:28-3:3

- In this passage you find many good reasons to abide in Christ. In other words: to not depart from faith in Him, from communion with Him, from the fellowship of Him, from a walk in His way. Which reasons to abide in Christ do you see in these verses?
- What, according to these verses, causes us to be children of God?
- Read these verses again for yourself. Is there something that strikes you, or that you learn now?

Look again at 3:4-6

- John cannot mean with these verses that a Christian can reach sinless perfection in this life (otherwise he would contradict what he wrote in 1:8, 1:10 and 2:1). If he doesn't mean that, what does he mean – what is his aim with these verses?

Look again at 3:7-10

- What strikes you in these verses?

John wants his readers to discern between the children of God and the children of the devil. He cannot mean with these verses that Christians should isolate themselves and separate themselves from non-Christians, or from people who have sinned (otherwise he would contradict what he writes in 4:9-11, 4:19 – see also I Cor. 5:9-10). He means that Christians should recognise people who may call themselves Christians, but who tempt Christians to take it easy with the Christian life and with sin, who tempt Christians to deny their faith and who speak in a hateful way about faithful Christians and churches. Christians should recognise such people and not join them.

- Look at 3:5 and 3:8b. How do these verses also contain reasons to abide in Christ?

3. Apply and end with prayer.

Christ will appear in glory. We, as his children, will appear with Him in glory. Take some moments of silence to meditate upon this. And after this, share what you want to ask prayer for.

4. Digging deeper.

As we read I John, we are almost at the end of the whole Bible. See how in the end of the Bible, all things from the beginning come back again. Through Christ a great reversal has taken place. When Adam and Eve had sinned and God came, they did shrink from Him in shame. But now that Christ has been put to shame in our place and taken our punishment and death, we may abide in Him and look forward to his coming with confidence!