

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

10th Session **THEME: An overcoming family**

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

You know that you have done or said the right thing. It was really the right thing to do, to say. But doing or saying so, makes you feel very uncertain, makes you wonder: have I done it right? Has anyone of you experienced this? When? Share briefly.

Introduction to I John 5: The church to whom John writes has done the right thing. They have kept the original Gospel. They have not given in to new teachings. Even though they were severely criticised for that. John writes his letter to encourage them. In chapter 5 we have the climactic conclusion of the letter.

2. Read I John 5 30 minutes to answer these questions

Look again at 5:1-5 The overcoming family presented

- As in Genesis we read about the human family that was defeated, here we read about the family that overcomes. Several things characterise them. How many can you find in this passage?
- What is the main difference between what Adam and Eve did, and what this family does?

Look again at 5:6-17 The privileges of this family

- Read vs. 6-10. Who do they have, so that they have the victory and know about it?
- Read vs. 11-13. What does this family have, which Adam's family lost?
- Read vs. 14-17. Death implies also the absence of all communication and communion. Life implies communication and communion. The children of God have life: they keep God's words (vs. 3). And God listens to their requests (vs. 14,15). What is a good thing, according to God's will, to pray for? (According to what John says in this passage)
- 'Sin that leads to death and sin that does not lead to death'. We may wonder which sin leads to death. But in light of what God said in Genesis about sin, we might be more surprised that there is any sin that does not lead to death! What do you think John meant by these terms?

Look again at 5:19-21 The protection of this family

- What is the key-word in this passage?
- Adam did not keep his wife from sinning, nor himself. Cain was not his brother's keeper. How is the new family kept?
- Adam had to keep the garden (from serpents...). In which tempting forms can Satan come to us today?

3. Apply and end with prayer. 15 minutes to make it personal and to pray

Is there a particular area in which you are challenged currently, or in the upcoming time, to hold fast to things, to stand, to persevere – even though that may not be easy? Think a few minutes about this. Share. And end with prayer.