

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

7th Session **THEME: A loving family**

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

There can be times that a child of God feels like: God may not be happy with me. God may be disappointed with me. God may not look at me as one of his children. If you have ever known such feelings, or know others who struggle with such feelings, what can help?

2. Read twice I John 3:10-18 20 – 25 minutes to answer these questions

Look again at 3:10-11

- Love for fellow brothers and sisters in the church is a mark of being a child of God, because those who love their brothers and sisters obey the command of Jesus (see also John 13:34-35). For the children of God, it is the natural and the normal thing to act out of love (though of course there can always be very complicated situations). Of course, this lesson - this 'thesis' - can make people feel uncertain in certain particular situations. But can you also imagine that these verses can be encouraging?
- Discuss further questions or observations in these verses.

Look again at 3:12-15

- Do you think people at the church to whom John wrote were actually killing each other? Why/why not?
- This section elaborates on verses 10-11 with the key-theme of hate. However, in verses 13-14 we see that John has a positive aim with this section. What was his positive aim?
- More questions/observations?

Look again at 3:16-18

- In this section John elaborates on verses 10-11 with the key-theme of love. How are verses 12-15 and verses 16-18 antithetical?
- Verse 17 could remind us of the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). How?
- John encourages to make love practical. Does he encourage to do so according to our nature, or contrary to our nature?

3. Apply and end with prayer.

The passage that we have read aims to reassure Christians. The passage also aims to awaken those who thought they were Christians, but they weren't. And the passage aims to encourage Christians to put into practice more the love for each other. Take some moments of silence and try to discern what the Lord is telling you through this passage today. After that, share briefly and end with prayer.

4. Digging deeper.

Again, John goes back to the first chapters of the Bible. You may take time to read Genesis 4, meditate upon it and then read the passage from John again (and see how it helped you understand John better).