



## Victory Leader Guide – August 2, 2020

1 John 5:1-12 (NIV)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. <sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

<sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. <sup>9</sup> We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. <sup>10</sup> Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

### ICE BREAKER

**What has been the hardest or most unexpected aspect of the pandemic for you?**

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

When love is present, burdens are light.

- Love punctuates everything, vv. 1-3
- Victory as an overcomer comes through our faith. vv. 4
- Jesus came as you, for you, and as God, for God. vv. 5-12

**1) Verses 1-3 lay out one last time in 1 John that loving God, loving people, and keeping His commands are all related and all exist together. How does it feel to think about these 3 things?**

- Some people might be burdened by these.
- Some people may have a really bad history with religion and following the rules.

- Some people might think that they are doing these things really well, and they would be mistaken 😊
- The point of this conversation is for us to understand that we can't do these three things: love God, love people, keep his commands on our own.

**2) In verse 3, John tells us that God's commands are not burdensome. What would it look like to believe that this was true? What burdens do you currently have in your life and how would this understanding change the burdens you feel?**

- This is an earth shattering statement. The fact that the commands that God has given are not burdensome to us as humans, and us as sinners, should take a huge weight off of our shoulders.
- How would life look if we believed this?

**3) Verse 4 explains that victory comes through faith. We overcome the world because Jesus already overcame the world and through faith in Him, we can be an overcomer. What would living with this sense of victory look like? How would you respond to the burdens in life if you knew that through Jesus you *already* have victory over them?**

- This is the crux of the passage. The commands of God are burdensome if we have to keep them on our own. But Jesus, through his death and resurrection, achieved the victory for us.
- We are victorious because Jesus achieved the victory.
- Talk about what it would look like to have victory and live as an overcomer.
- If God really is in control. If Jesus really did die for us. If we really do have victory through him, then we have to decide in our minds to believe that that is true. Lead your group through a discussion practically of how that belief and acknowledgment would lead to living in that victory.

**4) John concludes this passage reminding us once and for all that if you have the Son you have life. How does recognizing that you "have the Son" allow you to look at you burdens differently?**

- Steve gave several examples of burdens, represented by rocks in a backpack, that should look different in light of knowing that you have the Son and living in victory. Lead your group to see practically how anything that is going wrong, anything that is uncertain, anything that is ambiguous doesn't have to lead us to despair because we already have the victory. We already have the Son. Therefore we can endure everything else. When anything other than "having the Son" is of more importance, that's when anxieties start taking over. But when we recognize what Jesus has done for us and that it is final and complete, that changes everything.

**5) Steve explained that Jesus came "as you, for you, and as God, for God." Why are both of these aspects of Jesus' live death and resurrection important?**

- He had to come as man in order to be a substitute for humanity.
- He had to come as God in order to be a substitute for all of humanity.
- This is what John was talking about in verses 6-10. The false teaching that he is correcting is called Gnosticism. This is a philosophy that says all material is evil and all spiritual is good. Therefore God would never come in the flesh as Jesus. If you get that wrong, and he didn't come in the flesh, then he didn't actually die in our place and we are still in our sin. He has to be both God and man to accomplish victory for us. When John says he came by "water and blood," these refer to his baptism and his death. These Gnostics thought that Jesus could have had divinity imparted to him at his baptism and did miracles with that divinity, but it left him at his baptism. John is saying he was God and man the whole time.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

**1) Imagine what it would look like to actually, consciously, and intentionally leave your burdens at Jesus' feet. What would that do for you family? Your job? Your mental and emotional health? Your faith?**

**2) Steve talked about “studying the gospel” the way someone would study a sunset, staring at its beauty until it is etched in your mind and you can see it in vivid color. What are some ways you can study the gospel like that this week? How can you focus your mind and your heart in such a way that you intentionally stare at Jesus that way long enough for it to make an impact on your burdens?**