



# OVERCOMER

## LEADER GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

**Main Point:** Jesus followers are overcomers.

**Key Passages:** 1 John 5:1-5; Matthew 7:24-27; Mark 2:1-5

### INFORMATION FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

This small group experience is designed for leaders to engage students in conversation after the sermon. During your small group time, encourage your students to talk, discuss, and open up. As a leader, do not be afraid of awkward silence. Allow God to work during this time while you facilitate the conversation as the students talk. Don't be afraid to unpack what it means to be a Christian. This series is designed to spark salvation conversations and help students turn to God.



## Hey Small Group Leader!

We are stoked that you are serving at a retreat in order to share the love and grace of Jesus with students. Our prayers are with you!

As you prepare to lead these sessions, there are a few quick tips we want to pass your way. **Small group leaders are the most influential people at a retreat** – so pray hard, prepare well, and magnify Jesus!

### Reminders for Small Group Leaders:

- **Prepare in advance.** Creativity doesn't happen overnight. Let the Bible passages marinate in your own heart before teaching the sessions.
- **Pray for your students.** You can begin praying for the students even before you know which ones will be in your group. Pray for their hearts. Pray for their parents. Pray for their salvation.
- **Make necessary changes to each lesson.** The best curriculum is still too general to connect in every ministry context. You are the expert on your students. Feel free to take notes and add questions to the sessions.
- **Facilitate a conversation.** You should not monopolize the teaching time. Allow students to discuss, reflect on, and internalize the content.

### Additional Resources for You:

Ministry Bubble is a content creation company that produces studies, books, and articles for youth ministries. Looking for resources to continue discipling students after your event? Then check out the links below for Ministry Bubble's divisions!

- [ChaseSnyder.blog](https://ChaseSnyder.blog) – Articles about leadership and discipleship.
- [YouthMinStudies.com](https://YouthMinStudies.com) – Downloadable and customizable studies.
- [228Publishers.com](https://228Publishers.com) – Paperback books and devotionals.

Blessings,

*The Ministry Bubble Team*

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## About the Author

### **Chase Snyder**

Chase is the High School and Young Adults Pastor at FBC Loganville in Metro Atlanta, GA. He is the founder of [MinistryBubble.com](http://MinistryBubble.com) and author of a few books.

He and his wife, Anne, have two children, Tripp and Brooke. His family seeks to live a life that honors God and encourages others to serve God in their day-to-day lives. His heart is to encourage and equip those who are in church to seek those who are unchurched and de-churched.

**Find out more about Chase's books and ministry at**

[ChaseSnyder.blog](http://ChaseSnyder.blog)

**Facebook/Twitter/Instagram:** @ChaseSnyder12

## Session Overview

### Session 1: Overcome Sin

Is life wearing you down? People tell you that living as a normal human seems easy enough – do what you are supposed to do and everything will turn out OK. But life isn't that cut and dry. Situations arise that stand between us and the life we hope for. Some things happen because of our bad decisions, while other situations happen that are out of our control. To be an overcomer means that we are ready to stand firm when temptations and negative situations enter our lives. To be an overcomer means that we are standing firm in Jesus.

- **Main Point:** Jesus overcame sin so we don't have to give in.
- **Main Passage:** 1 John 5:1-5

### Session 2: Overcome Storms

Do you sometimes wonder why, even though you are a Christian, you struggle so much to overcome temptations and trials? You may wonder how you can tap into the power to overcome struggles and not sin. The Bible gives clear instructions for how you can best weather life's storms. To be an overcomer means that you commit to following Jesus' commands. To be an overcomer means opening your mind and heart to a new way of handling trials and temptations – a way that goes counter to what culture teaches and instead embraces what Jesus taught.

- **Main Point:** Obeying Jesus helps you overcome the storms that are coming.
- **Main Passage:** Matthew 7:24-27

### Session 3: Overcome Crowds

We are people who are in the world, surrounded by different people, backgrounds, and ideas. Some of those can become obstacles to faith for you and for others. To be an overcomer means making sacrifices so that others can be brought to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. To be an overcomer means being strategic about your own spiritual walk so that crowds don't stop you from growing closer to Jesus.

- **Main Point:** We can help others overcome and find faith in Jesus.
- **Main Passage:** Mark 2:1-5

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## Session Flow

### Set the Stage

5-7 minutes

We know how hard it is to keep students focused on the sermon topic as they make their way back to host homes or transition into rooms after the service. “Set the Stage” is a time to rein it back in and focus for the session.

### Large Talk Recap

5-7 minutes

The main point of the sermon will be the same main point that you will discuss with your students during each session. The “Large Talk Recap” will bring in a few ideas from the sermon to align the group for digging into God’s Word. Be ready to share your personal struggles with listening to God’s Word and applying it in your daily life. *Your transparency may enable Gospel transformation.* Be ready to encourage and engage students during this time.

### God’s Word

10-15 minutes

Each session will dig into one key passage from God’s Word. As best as you can, engage each student in conversation. The questions will focus on unpacking how the original hearers and audience felt, thought, wondered, and responded.

### Our Response

10-15 minutes

Once the original intent of the biblical passage is understood, it will be time to focus on how the students should respond to the biblical truth. The “Our Response” section is designed to spark awe, confession, thanksgiving, worship, or surrender. This is where the Gospel of Jesus hits our collective heart, soul, mind, and strength.

### Your Move

10-15 minutes

The aim of these sessions is for your students to take action on God’s Word. The “Your Move” section will focus on how students can get past their pride and comfort and start living the faith that they proclaim during worship. Students will need encouragement to take risks, set goals, and break habits. Be ready to pray with and encourage the students as they prepare to apply God’s Word to their day-to-day lives.

\*\* Remember, you know your students best. ***The best curriculum is still written for students in general, not for your specific group.*** Take a few minutes and personalize this small group lesson to ensure that it connects with your specific group of students.

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## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE SESSION 1: Overcome Sin

### The Study

Is life wearing you down? People tell you that living as a normal human seems easy enough. But life isn't that cut and dry. Situations arise that stand between us and the life we hope for. Some things happen because of our bad decisions, while other situations happen that are out of our control. To be an overcomer means that we stand firm in Jesus even when temptations and negative situations enter our lives.

- **Main Point:** Jesus overcame sin so we don't have to give in.
- **Main Passage:** 1 John 5:1-5

### The Supplies

- Small group leader guide
- Small group student guide (1 per student)
- Ink pens (1 per student)
- *Extras:* A map and compass (1 each for leader to use)

### Need Additional Resources?

It is impossible to live out the Gospel if your students do not understand it. *The Gospel: An 89-Day Bible Study and Prayer Journal* walks through the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to help your students understand and apply the Gospel to their lives.

Head to [www.YouthMinStudies.com](http://www.YouthMinStudies.com) for bulk order discounts and other articles, studies, and resources.

## **About the Passage: 1 John 5:1-5**

### **About the Book:**

First John was written to Christians in Ephesus to be an encouragement to the early church in Ephesus. Ephesus was located in modern-day Turkey and served as a leading trade city for the Roman Empire. Love is a central theme of the book. Love for God should result in a deep love for one another. John wrote with a personal spirit, referring to the Christians as “little children” as a term of endearment. Love not only drives people closer to God and others, but John adds that it fuels the passion to obey God’s commandments.

### **About the Author:**

John, son of Zebedee, is the author of the book. John was one of the first disciples of Jesus and the disciple whom Jesus loved. He was a part of Jesus’ inner circle along with Peter, James, and Andrew. His close relationship with Jesus shaped John’s perspective and voice as a more day-to-day account of Jesus’ ministry. He is the author of John as well as 1, 2, and 3 John and Revelation.

### **About the Passage:**

This passage is highly evangelistic. John reminds the church in Ephesus that salvation is through Jesus alone. Those who are in the family of God love the Father but also have love for their siblings – other Jesus followers. Following Jesus isn’t burdensome; it is a mark of a believer of Jesus. Christians have overcome the world because of Jesus’ sacrifice. Not only has the grace of Jesus overcome past sin, Christians are able to overcome future trials and temptations.



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## Sermon Notes:

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Bible Verses: \_\_\_\_\_

Songs I Liked: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes:

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## Questions to Ask Students During the Session:

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## Session 1: Overcome Sin

### Set the Stage

**Leader Tip:** Start the session off with a quick prayer. Do not ask for prayer requests at this time. Pray for guidance, focus, and a fresh movement of God's Spirit.

**Say This:** Everyone loves a good underdog story. From Luke Skywalker learning how to use the force to a smaller football team facing a larger team of giants – we can't help but cheer for the unlikely hero to win.

1. Have you ever been outmatched in a competition? Were you able to overcome and win?
2. When the underdogs win, it typically moves people to feel great emotions. Why is that so?
3. When was a time, besides a competition, when you felt like an underdog?

**Say This:** We all experience the feeling of facing overwhelming odds. This happens in school, in relationships, at work, and in our families. The Bible has a lot to say about what it means to overcome overwhelming odds and situations.

### Large Talk Recap

1. What were the most memorable one or two concepts you heard the speaker discuss?
2. Why do you think those concepts in particular stuck out to you?
3. What do you think the main takeaway of the talk was?
4. What did the passage of Scripture reveal to you about God's character or His heart?

## God's Word

Transition to God's Word:

Ask a student to read the passage below.

### **1 John 5:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**1. This passage teaches that those who are in the family of God are overcomers. What does 1 John 5:1-4 say is the only way we can enter into the family of God?**

John tells the church in Ephesus that the only way we can be adopted into the family of God is through Jesus. There is no other way a person can become a Christian. Belief in Jesus is the only way that a person can be a child of God.

**2. Read John 3:3-8. What does it mean to be born into the family of God?**

In this passage Jesus talked to Nicodemus about being born again. Jesus said that the only way to enter into the Kingdom of God was to be born into it. Physical rebirth is impossible. It is only through a spiritual rebirth that we enter into God's family. When a person repents of their sins and believes in Jesus they enter into a new life – a new spiritual life. Jesus doesn't simply fix a broken life; He offers a new beginning for those who repent and believe in Him.

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### **3. If we enter into God's family by being born again, then why does 1 John 5:2-3 say that we have to obey God's commands and love other people? Are we saved by what we do?**

You are not saved by your actions. However, your actions provide evidence of the heart transformation that has taken place. John tells the Christians that their love for the Father will also result in a love for other people. When we experience the goodness of Jesus, it will drive us to have love and concern for others. He goes on to say that following Jesus' commands isn't burdensome for His people because we know that God cares about our well-being. It may seem easier to give in to sin, but sin will bring pain, suffering, and heartache in the long run. Obeying Jesus may be difficult in the moment, but it protects us from future pain and regret.

### **4. Is it possible to love God without loving others or obeying God's commands?**

No. True love is an action – not an emotion. Love comes from a transformed heart. This passage tells us that as our love for God grows so will our love for other people. Your love for others will not be perfect, but it will be present.

### **5. What does 1 John 5:4 say that God's people can overcome? What aspects of "the world" do we need to overcome?**

We are brought into life by Jesus – the one who overcame sin and death. Jesus was moved by love and overcame sin so that we don't have to fall into sin. It is impossible to overcome sin on our own. Everyone who has been born of God has the power to overcome the influence of the world that keeps us from obeying Jesus. Despite our struggle with sin and temptation, we can be encouraged because the victory has been won by Jesus. We are overcomers.

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## Our Response

**Leader Tip:** Allow the students to internalize the Scriptures during this portion. Remember to facilitate discussion. As tempting as it may be, don't answer these questions for them. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in their minds and hearts.

1. Our culture often teaches that there are many paths to Heaven. What does the Bible teach about what it takes to be in God's family and enter Heaven?
2. Do you know anyone who believes there are many paths to Heaven and God, Christianity being just one? Without sharing names, what do you think is the reason for that belief?
3. What struggles and temptations are your friends trying to overcome? Please do not share names of friends who are struggling.
4. How are they trying to overcome these struggles?

## Your Move

**Main Point:** Jesus overcame sin so we don't have to give in.

**Say This:** What is a battle or struggle you wish you could overcome? You don't have to share with the group if you don't want to.

**Say This:** As you are thinking about your struggles, you may already be thinking about steps you are going to take to overcome this sin. There are plenty of self-help books, ways to search online, etc., to tell you what to do. But without the light of Jesus we are unable to overcome the struggles we face.

**Object Lesson:** *Dark Room and A Map*

Hikers know that a map and compass are essential to navigating trails in the backcountry. Maps provide the layout of the land and a compass shows direction. Together, a hiker can use these tools to navigate easily during a trek. For a moment, let's imagine that a hiker has a map and compass, but he doesn't have a light source during a

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dark night. If the hiker can't see the map or compass, will he be able to navigate? Of course not!

**Leader Tip:** If you have a map and compass you can turn the lights out in the room and see if the students are able to read the map.

**Say This:** Many people are trying to navigate their life without the light of Jesus. They may have a plan, but they are unable to walk in the light that Jesus gives. Jesus is a light that not only exposes your sin, but helps you overcome it through His death on the cross, burial, and resurrection.

- Have students read John 1:1-13 on their own.

**Leader Tip:** During this section, you will be asking the students about their spiritual walk with Jesus. You know your students. This time may need to be done with introspection, not out-loud discussion. Allow time for students to respond to the Gospel.

1. For you personally, would you say that you are walking in the light of Jesus or walking in darkness? Why?
2. Does the description of a Jesus-follower in 1 John 5:2-3 line up with your life?
3. Have you accepted Jesus' forgiveness?
4. Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose on the third day?
5. Are you ready and willing to surrender your life to Jesus Christ?

**End the session in prayer.**



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## STUDENT GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

**Main Point:** Jesus followers are overcomers.

**Key Passages:** 1 John 5:1-5; Matthew 7:24-27; Mark 2:1-5

#### **Overcomer:**

You are more than your past.  
You are more than your reputation.  
Jesus followers are overcomers.

Over the next four sessions you will discover how to overcome sin, overcome the storms that happen in life, and overcome the crowds that keep you from Jesus.

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### The Study

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1. This passage teaches that those who are in the family of God are overcomers. What does 1 John 5:1-4 say is the only way we can enter into the family of God?
2. Read John 3:3-8. What does it mean to be born into the family of God?
3. If we enter into God's family by being born again, then why does 1 John 5:2-3 say that we have to obey God's commands and love other people? Are we saved by what we do?
4. Is it possible to love God without loving others or obeying God's commands?
5. What does 1 John 5:4 say that God's people can overcome? What aspects of "the world" do we need to overcome?

## Our Response

1. Our culture often teaches that there are many paths to Heaven. What does the Bible teach about what it takes to be in God's family and enter Heaven?
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