

SESSION 9 – WEEK OF 14 MAR 2021

BORN TO OVERCOME

SCRIPTURE: 1JOHN 5:1-5:13

Theme:

Last week, we talked about what it means to love an unseen God. Through acknowledging God's love and loving the people around us, we have the means to love God and to complete His love. In today's passage, the Apostle John reminds us again that the true marks of being a child of God is to love our fellow brothers and sisters. This is by no means an easy task. But our Heavenly Father provides us the faith to overcome sin and love our fellow brothers and sisters.

Key Verse:

"In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.' 1 John 5:3-4

Read 1John 5:1-5:13

Core Questions for Discussion

(If your group meets fortnightly, combine Core Questions of two sessions and choose one Further Question from either session.)

1. The Apostle John talks about the testimony of God about His Son. Ask your group members to brainstorm and summarise the testimony of God/the Gospel in two short sentences and share it with the group. Encourage them to be as creative as possible!

2. In this week's passage, the Apostle John lists out 3 signs that someone is born of God. How many of these signs can you find in the text? How many of these signs can you find in your own life?

3. What hope/encouragement does the Apostle John give in overcoming the world? (v.4)

What role does water, blood and Spirit play in the testimony of God?

The Apostle John says that Jesus Christ came by water and blood and these two testify about Him. Water and blood are two symbols that give evidence that Jesus is the Son of God.

The water symbolises the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. When Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, a voice appeared from heaven and said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

The blood symbolises Jesus' death on the cross, where he shed his blood that cleansed us from our sin. Only the death of the sinless Son of God could fulfil the requirements of justice for sin and pay for the penalty of sin for all mankind.

When we partake in the sacraments (Holy Communion and baptism), we remember the testimony of God that through His work on the cross, we can have eternal life.

The Spirit continues to act as living proof of our salvation and God actively working in our lives to sanctify us. While we may not have seen Jesus' baptism and death on the cross physically, Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit to act as a helper until Jesus comes again. Experiencing the Holy Spirit on a daily basis is a reminder to us of our eternal life with Jesus.

4. Why do you think it is important for someone to accept the testimony about God in the Bible, rather than one's own ideas about God?

Further Questions for Discussion

(Optional question for discussion if time permits. Do allocate adequate time for prayer and fellowship.)

5. *If you have time ...*

Are you usually aware of the link between obedience to God and loving Him? Or do you often struggle to make the connection between the two? Why is that the case? What are some challenges you face when obeying God's commands?

Prayer Suggestions

6. Would you consider praying for:

- a. A revelation of the true testimony of God and an overwhelming sense of His love as you continue to journey with God daily. May God reveal His fatherly love for you as His child and may you look in wonder at the love he has lavished upon you.
- b. Softening of hearts to be obedient to His commands. May this obedience be an outpouring of your love for Him. When we are faced with temptations of sin, may You rely on His Holy Spirit and remember that those who believe in Him will overcome the world.