

## Small Group/Sermon Notes based on The War: Part 9

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **The War: Part 9 "Overcome"**
  - We are called by God to be overcomers. Not shrink backers, or cowards, or quitters. When we overcome we win, it's just that simple.
- **Romans 12:17-21**
  - Do not be overcome...
    - Ever been tempted to crumble?
  - But overcome evil with good.
    - Human nature is to repay evil for evil (**Romans 12:17**).
      - This is a form of being overcome by evil. Ever been tempted with this?
    - But that is not God's direction for us. Not God's ways.
      - O.T. eye for eye and tooth for tooth. This prevented escalation.
      - Jesus raises the bar. **Matthew 5:43-44**.
        - This is overcoming evil with good.
  - **Romans 12:19**. What is the meaning of the "burning coals" thing?
    - So God's way (turn the other cheek, love your enemy) is to inject good into evil situations.
    - Jesus walked the walk. **Romans 5:8**.
      - Jesus injected good (a loving sacrifice that brought forgiveness) into an evil world.
- For us to overcome evil with good means we must inject good into evil situations.
  - That can be hard. It goes against our sin nature that wants vengeance, anger, or hate.
  - It takes faith. That means trust God even when you don't understand.
    - **Isaiah 55:8-9**. God's ways are higher in two ways: better than our ways and hard for us to understand sometimes. So, walk by faith.
- Let's get practical: overcome evil \_\_\_\_\_ with good \_\_\_\_\_? How do we inject good into these situations?
  - Overcome evil done to you with what?
  - Overcome a very sinful past with what?
  - Overcome a bad marriage with what? (love and respect)
  - Overcome lies spoken over you with what?
  - Overcome sin patterns and generational curses with what?
  - Overcome dark eyes with what? ("Those idiots!" vs "Those people created in the image of God that Jesus died for!")
- The reward for overcoming evil with good is, unfortunately, sometimes deferred.
  - Overcome sometimes means the evil situation turns around! Woo Hoo! Have you had that happen?
  - Overcome other times means you don't lose heart or give up even though.
- Don't let the deferred reward cause you to be overcome by evil.
  - Remember reading **Hebrews 10:32-35** a few weeks ago?
    - Let's finish that passage. **Hebrews 10:35-39**.
    - Verse 39 is very strong. "Perdition." Judas. Wide road.
- But we are not of those who shrink back!!! We are those who believe and are saved!!
  - What is the promise to those who overcome?
  - In Revelation separate messages are given to 7 churches. They include promise to overcomers.
  - Read: **Revelation 2:7, Revelation 2:11, Revelation 2:17, Revelation 2:26-27, Revelation 3:5, Revelation 3:12, Revelation 3:21**. We must overcome. The reward is great.
  - What evil in your life do you need to overcome with good?
  - Let's ask God to reveal these things to us and to give us strength to persevere!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!