



Bring The World To Its Knees

1 John 5

Small Group Plan

*Encamped along the hills of light, Ye Christian soldiers, rise.
And press the battle ere the night, Shall veil the glowing skies.
Against the foe in vales below, Let all our strength be hurled.
Faith is the victory, we know, That overcomes the world.*

— Refrain —

*Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory!
O glorious victory, that overcomes the world.*

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- If you grew up singing this song, what did it mean to you?
- If it's new to you, what do you hear in it's message?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

- Throughout this section John repeatedly uses the phrase “This is ...”

“This is how we know ...” (v. 2)

“This is love ...” (v. 3)

“This is the victory ...” (v. 4)

“This is the one who came ...” (v. 6)

“This is the testimony ...” (v. 11)

THIS IS THE VICTORY

1 John 5:1-5

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

- How do you respond to this statement by St. Bede the Venerable:

*Faith with love is the faith of a Christian;
without love is the faith of a demon.*

- John connects loving God with obeying God. Why?
- John says, God’s commands “are not burdensome.” Why would some people say that they are? How would you respond?
- John says that “faith” is the victory. How is “faith” our victory? What does it mean to “overcome the world?”

THIS IS THE ONE

1 John 5:6-10

⁶ *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. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ⁹ We accept man’s testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. ¹⁰ Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.*

- John says that the object of our faith is Jesus (v. 6).
- Why is it dangerous to have a “strong faith” with no clear object? What attitude(s) begin to emerge?
- John says there are “three that testify” — the Spirit, the water and the blood. How do each of these bear witness to Jesus?

THIS IS THE TESTIMONY

1 John 5:11-12

¹¹ *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

- Over and over John mentions the “Testimony.”
 - “the Spirit who testifies ...” (v. 6)
 - “there are three that testify ...” (v. 7)
 - “We accept man’s testimony, but God’s testimony is greater” (v. 6)
 - “the testimony of God ...” (v. 6)
 - “Anyone who believes ... has this testimony in his heart ...” (v. 6)
 - “has not believed the testimony ...” (v. 6)
- Finally, John announces what the testimony is —
 - God’s gift of “eternal life” (v. 11)
- What does it mean for you to have eternal life?
- Why is it found only in Jesus?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Has there ever been a time in your life when you thought of God's commands as "burdensome" (v. 3)? How did it feel?
- When have you felt the joy of God's commands? How would you describe the difference?
- How does going to our knees before God bring the world to it's knees in our lives?
- How is the reverse true?
- Close by asking God to make us certain, joyful, and obedient.