

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## 1 John 5:1-4

### Pray-

Pray as a group for the Lord to soften your hearts and for humble hearts that are submitted to His word.

### Read 1 John 5:1-4

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

### Main Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **God intervenes into our deadness, gives us new life**
- **Because of this new life, we respond with love and obedience**
- **He has overcome. We put our faith in Him.**

### I. God intervenes into our deadness, gives us new life

- Worshippers of Christ have been re-birthed, renewed, regenerated.
- Being “...born of God, and children of God...” happens only by the intervening work of God.
  - **Read: 1 John 2:5, 1 John 2:29, 1 John 3:10, 1 John 4:7-10**
- God intervenes while we are spiritually dead. We were “dead in our trespasses... But God...”
  - **Read: Ephesians 2:1-10, Colossians 2:13-14, Titus 3:3-7**
  - Do these scriptures change or affirm your thinking about your “conversion?”
- Can you remember a time when you were an enemy of God?
- Can you remember a time when you did not honor God and give Him thanks, or did not desire to worship and serve God, or just didn’t care about God?
- Do you know of people who were/are praying for your salvation, praying for the Lord to intervene into your deadness?
- Brainstorm with your group ways that you can ask others about their testimony of how God intervened in their lives in a way that honors and exalts God. (Be gracious with each other. This may be a new thought for some.)
- Brainstorm with your group ways that you can share your testimony in a way that honors and exalts God. (Be gracious with each other. This may be a new thought for some.)

- Read and discuss the following quote...
  - “Faith is the evidence that we have been born of God. We do not cause ourselves to be born again by deciding to believe. God creates our willingness to believe by causing us to be born again. As Peter said in his first letter, God “caused us to be born again to a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3). Our living hope, or faith in future grace, is the work of God through new birth.” - John Piper

## **II. Because of this new life, we respond with worship, with love and obedience**

- Legalism is burdensome. Legalism could be defined as: Any attempt to rely on self-effort to either attain or maintain our justification before God.
  - In the parable of the two sons (Prodigal Son) in Luke 15:11-32 we see the younger brother repentant of his unrighteousness which is a good model for us. Likewise in the case of the self-righteous older brother we need to repent of our self-righteousness.
- 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”
  - One way we can show love to God is by obeying Him.
- Any good we do is a response to what Christ has already done for us. Not an action to earn something from God.
- Is it difficult for you to view obedience as an act of love?
- How is it freeing to know that obedience is an act of love?

## **III. He has overcome. We put our faith in Him**

- 1 John 5:4 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”
- Jesus is the one who overcame. By faith in Him, through Him, and for His glory we have the privilege of enjoying the blessings of Him overcoming the world.
- List what Jesus has overcome through His life, His death, His resurrection, His promised return... Share some scripture references that pertain to your list.

### **Pray –**

- Pray as a group for people you know who are not believers.
- Pray as a group for wisdom and discernment to know how to share your testimony in a way that honors and exalts God.
- Pray as a group for wisdom and discernment to ask someone about their faith in a way that honors and exalts God.