

# 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 5:5-12

Read as a group 1 John 5:5-12

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

### 3 – Main Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **True Faith that Overcomes the World**
- **The Object of that True Faith**
- **The Effect of that True Faith**

#### I. True Faith that Overcomes the World (1 John 5:4-5)

- What is the world in this passage?
  - *Leaders Cheat: (Read 1 John 2:15-17) The “World” is the invisible, spiritual system of evil that is under the authority of the evil one.*
- What does it take to overcome the world? Give an example. (Verse 4)
- Why did Nathan title this point “*True Faith that Overcomes the World*” instead of just “*Faith that Overcomes the World?*”
- How has our post-modern culture hijacked the idea of faith and made it into something other than biblical faith?
- Why is the object of our faith more important than just having genuine faith in something?

## II. The Object of that True Faith (1 John 5:6-8)

- John emphasizes the importance of believing specific things about Jesus. How are true beliefs linked to love and obedience?
- What three witnesses did John cite as being in agreement about the Son of God?
  - **Leaders Guide:** *If anyone is struggling with the fact that the King James Version has an extra line in verse 7, please encourage them to meet with Pastor Nathan on the subject.*
- The false teachers of John's day asserted that a "Christ-Spirit" departed from the man Jesus just prior to His death on the cross. How would John's comments about "water & blood" in verse 6 refute this charge?
- How did John describe the Holy Spirit in this short passage?
- According to John, to refuse to believe in the Biblical Jesus is tantamount to calling God what? (V10)
- When it comes to Christ's identity, why is God's testimony (1 John 5:9) greater than man's testimony (see 1:1-4)?
- **Read Matthew 3:13-17** and discuss how the baptism of Christ "testifies" to the identity of the Son of God.
- Why did Jesus get baptized?
- **Read Matthew 27:54** and discuss how the death of Christ also "testifies" as to the identity of the Son of God.
- Discuss the following quote from D.A. Carson.
  - **Only in His death was the perfect relationship between Father and Son broken. When Jesus identified Himself with sinful man and bore man's sin on the cross, Jesus was forsaken by His father. Instead of the Spirit settling, heaven opening, and the Father blessing, the sky darkened and the perfect Messiah yelled out "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Instead of being called beloved by His Father, The Son bore the full force of the Father's rejection, wrath, and curse, not because He had ever done anything wrong but only because He bore our displeasure.**

### III. The Effect of that True Faith (1 John 5:9-12)

- What do verses 11 & 12 teach about eternal life?
- Read and discuss the following quotes by John Stott.
  - **Stott** - It is as impossible to have life without having Christ as it is to have Christ without thereby having life also. This is because **the Son is the Life**.
  - **Stott** - Three important truths are taught in these verses about eternal life. First, it is not a prize which we have earned, but an undeserved gift. Secondly, it is found in Christ, so that, in order to give us life, God both gave and gives us His Son. Thirdly, this gift of life in Christ is a present possession. True, it is further described as eternal, which literally means 'belonging to the age to come'. But since the age to come has broken into this present age, ... 'eternal life', can be received and enjoyed here and now.
- Remember, 1 John 5:6-12 is a study about "witnessing" – all the different voices (human and divine) and all the various facts (historical and theological) that form a single chorus to say clearly and loudly, "Jesus is Christ, the Savior of the World. Trust only in Him." As you conclude this lesson, ask the Spirit of God to search your heart. Is your life adding to this glorious chorus or detracting from it? How are you witnessing to the reality of the Lordship of Christ in your daily attitudes and behavior?