

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

June 1, 2008

Focus: To evaluate how John is choosing to close his letter while we look at how one might “overcome” the world.

I John - Lesson #14 Overcoming the World

Introduction: Remember that John is writing to a group of “nominal” Christians who have found following Christ hard. Some have simply allowed the teachings of their culture to infiltrate Christ’s teachings. He has said a lot of things so far in this letter and now begins to conclude his thoughts.

- If you were John, how would you conclude your letter to this group?
- Positive...harsh...grace filled...loving...reminding?
- Share your thinking on this.

Text: I John 5:1-5

- What did he say...how did he start his conclusion?
- Examine the phrase “born of God”...what does that mean?
- Going back into the Gnostic thought...Evaluate why John keeps bringing up the idea of “obeying his commands.”
- Evaluate why these people might have felt like Jesus’ commands were burdensome.
- Justify your interpretation of what it means to “overcome the world.”
- Assess who and how one can overcome the world.

Application:

- Decide what you might write to our church as you closed a letter to us.
- How might you end a letter written to just you?
- Describe ways in which we have made Christ burdensome to ourselves and others.
- Share with us how you are “overcoming the world” (killing sin in your life).