

Living as an Overcomer

John 16.33

1. How are you at saying goodbye? Is it harder for you to be the one leaving, or the one left behind? Explain.
2. What is the hardest thing you have ever had to endure? What made it so hard? How did you respond?
3. Both Jesus and the world offer a form of peace (John 14.27; 16.33), joy (15.11; 16.22-24), and love (13.34-35; 15.9-19). How have you experienced each of these? What is different between what Jesus offers and what the world offers?
4. What is the difference between the Hebrew word for peace (shalom) and our english word? How is real peace so much more than just the absence of conflict? Why are things of the world so inadequate when it comes to offering real peace?
5. Read Galatians 3.26-28. What does it mean to be *in Christ*? How is it a community idea and not an individual pursuit?
6. Why do we have to face adversity in life? If God loves us and if He is sovereign over all things, then why does He not shield us from the brokenness of this world? How would you explain this to an unbelieving friend?
7. Jesus tells us to take heart because He has overcome the world. What does *take heart* mean to you? What does it look like in your life to an unbelieving friend?
8. *God does not give us overcoming life; He gives us life as we overcome.* What is the difference?
9. How does rejoicing in the face of adversity help us live an overcoming life? How would you explain this to your unbelieving friend?