



Session I: More than conquerors

I–IO Nov

Icebreaker

How are you and your church reacting and responding to the current crisis?

Key thought

God has not merely forgiven us but also provided us with a supernatural inner strength to overcome difficult circumstances that would otherwise overwhelm our human capacities to cope.

Key verse

'we are more than conquerors through him who loved us' (Rom. 8:31)

Discussion starters

1. How has God helped you conquer adversity in your life?
2. How has God put new meaning in your life?
3. Why can human words never fully express or explain God?
4. Do you tend towards fatalism or expectancy?
5. How can defeatist thinking be transformed?
6. Why may the message of Christianity be diluted?
7. What makes a Christian the same as others yet different?
8. Do you tend to be afraid of making mistakes, or go ahead anyway?

The example of Jesus

'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world' (John 16:33)

Prayer pointers

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you understand and apply the issues outlined in this edition, and that you will each personally experience God's presence and power.
- Pray for one another to be more than conquerors in your individual spheres of life.

Session 2: Dangers of denial

II–I6 Nov

Icebreaker

Do you tend to confront, avoid, ignore or deny difficulties?

Key thought

Pretence is wrong because when we deny difficult situations exist, we believe that we do not need to pray for God's help and thereby we also deny the abilities of God to overcome those difficulties.

Key verse

'everyone born of God overcomes the world' (1 John 5:4)

Discussion starters

1. Why might Christians live in a spiritual diarchy?
2. What might some Christians try to limit God's access to in their lives?
3. How do people repeat the same sin as Adam and Eve?
4. Why might denial of difficulties indicate a lack of faith?
5. Should Christians be idealistic or realistic?
6. What are the characteristics of 'pseudo-spirituality'?

The example of Jesus

'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death' (Mark 14:34)

Prayer pointers

- Pray that you might be honest to God.
- Pray for the strength of the Holy Spirit to help you face and overcome difficult situations.

This will be the last issue of Every Day with Jesus Extra. If you would like to find more resources for small groups or individual use visit waverleyabbeyresources.org





Session 3: No separation anxiety

17–21 Nov

Icebreaker

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYxyZoQN1pY.

Have you ever suffered from nomophobia? Why does separation and the fear of separation cause anxiety?

Key thought

Many things can separate us from one another, whether its circumstance, neglect, distance, disease, difference of opinion or even death. Yet we can be certain nothing can ever separate us from God's love.

Key verse

'I'm absolutely convinced that... absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.' (Rom. 8:38–39, The Message)

Discussion starters

1. Have you made a will?
2. Do you have a balanced view of demons?
3. What do you hope to do today, tomorrow, next year and when you retire?
4. How can we be both be subject to a higher power but not under its authority?
5. Why might people feel they are in a place where God's love cannot reach them?

The example of Jesus

'And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").' (Mark 15:34)

He became sin for our righteousness and was forsaken for our permanent union with our Father.

Prayer pointers

- Thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.
- Pray that you may connect with others and unite them to the Father.

Session 4: Overcoming fear

22–28 Nov

Icebreaker

What are some common fears that people experience?

Key thought

Some kinds of fear can contribute to our safety and wellbeing, but fear that paralyses can stifle the personality and prevent us reaching our full potential. There are many different forms of this kind of fear but all can be overcome by trusting in God and fully experiencing His love.

Key verse

'There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear' (1 John 4:18)

Discussion starters

1. How does the Holy Spirit touch the whole person?
2. Is there a particular fear or anxiety that tends to paralyse you?
3. Why may fear be more effective than an enemy army?
4. How can love motivate us to do the things our fears avoid?
5. How has God's love expanded your life and personality?
6. Why does Jesus speak of following Him as a narrow way? (see Matt.7:13–14)
7. What is the difference between fear and reverential respect?





Session 5: The greatest pain and greatest fear 29 Nov – 5 Dec

Icebreaker

How many languages can the group say the words 'I love you' in?

Key thought

One of the greatest pains our personalities experience is the feeling of not being loved, and therefore one of our greatest fears is of being rejected, unloved and unwanted.

Key verse

'The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again' (Rom. 8:15)

Discussion starters

1. How are you assured that God loves you all the time?
2. What is unique about God's love?
3. How has God's love changed your outlook?
4. What may cause a person not to open their heart to God's love?
5. How has God's love overcome your vulnerabilities?
6. How has God's love inspired you to be creative?

The example of Jesus

'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.' (1 John 3:16)

Prayer pointers

- Open your heart wide to be filled with God's love.
- Pray that God's love will inspire you to be more creative.

Session 6: Consequences of conquering

6–11 Dec

Icebreaker

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p8_4NbrckA

How can music and songs strengthen your faith?

Key thought

To be a conqueror in Christ and live loving and resilient lives we must first be conquered by the love and example of Christ who provides inner strength for every day.

Key verse

'But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Cor. 15:57)

Discussion starters

1. How might you become distracted and preoccupied? (6 Dec)
2. Do you tend to see people as interruptions or opportunities to share God's love?
3. Are you a rowing boat, sailing boat or power boat?
4. How can the spiritual self overcome the human self?
5. What type of godliness do you project when under pressure?
6. Who has passed on to you an example of being a conqueror in Christ?

The example of Jesus

'I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.' (Rev. 3:21)

Prayer pointers

- Thank God for all the spiritual resources He has given us in Christ.
- Pray that you will pass on a conquering spirit to others by word and example.





Session 7: Word made flesh

12–18 Dec

Icebreaker

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn_oTw9yoBk

What does the Christmas season mean to you?

Key thought

God has communicated His character to us not by mere words but in the person of His Son who is the visible image of the invisible God. We understand what God is like not by human words but by the loving actions and character of Jesus.

Key verse

‘The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.’ (John 1:14)

Discussion starters

1. What makes Christianity similar to other religions yet unique?
2. How can we talk about the incarnation in a way that is culturally relevant?
3. How did Jesus encapsulate the Scriptures?
4. How did Jesus encapsulate the character of God?
5. Why did the Word have to become flesh?
6. How can we present Jesus and not just Christian principles?
7. Why do we no longer need to imagine what God is like?

The example of Jesus

‘Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.’ (John 14:9)

Prayer pointers

- Thank God for revealing Himself through the person of Jesus.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for greater intimacy with God.

Session 8: Blessed Christmas!

19–25 Dec

Icebreaker

Which is your favourite Christmas carol?

Key thought

God did sit on a celestial throne separate from His fallen creation but became a human being and subject to its pains. Jesus did this not just to show us a better way to live but to give His life as a substitutionary sacrifice so that we could have an intimate relationship with God.

Key verse

‘Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity’ (Heb. 2:14)

Discussion starters

1. How do you feel about approaching God on an intimate basis?
2. Have the principles of Christ become more important than the person of Christ?
3. When you pray, is it to a concept or do you establish true connection?
4. What are the roles of principle and ritual in the Church?
5. Does God merely understand our fears and failures or actually know them?
6. Why did a holy God not self-isolate from sinful mankind?
7. How can the Christmas spirit last a whole year?

The example of Jesus

‘She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’ (Matt. 1:21)

Prayer pointers

- Thank God that the Word became flesh.
- Pray that others will encounter not just the experience of Christmas but the salvation of Christ.





Session 9: Among us

26–31 Dec

Icebreaker

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7K1hckf1C3I

How did God become like you?

Key thought

The glorious, flawless Jesus willingly left the paradise of heaven to embrace the painful chaos of earth so that we sinners could become children of the Father and enjoy the paradise of heaven ourselves.

Key verse

‘The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.’ (John 1:14)

Discussion starters

1. How do the temptations affirm Jesus’ humanity rather than His divinity?
2. Why is the glory of Jesus different from the glory of a successful person?
3. Why is grace so amazing?
4. How much of Christianity is based on truth rather than grace?
5. How much of Christianity is based on consequence rather than cause?
6. What has most impacted you in this issue and how will you change as a result?

The example of Jesus

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” (John 8:11)

Prayer pointers

- Pray that Christians will become more than conquerors in Christ’s love.
- Pray for one another as we enter a new year with new challenges and opportunities.

