

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.



Sermon Study

Victory – Nike: Promise of Victory
John 16:25-33

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.

VICTORY.

*Eastview Christian Church small groups provide the optimal environment for the life change Jesus Christ intends for every person. Our groups typically have 8-14 people who **GATHER** together (Hebrews 10:24-25), **GROW** to be more Christ-like (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:14-16), **GIVE** of themselves in various ways (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16), and **GO** on to impact the world around them (Matthew 28:19).*

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

Have you ever attended a “gala” event (or a major sporting event such as a Super Bowl, World Series, Stanley Cup Final, NBA Final, NCAA Final Four, World Cup Soccer Final, Indianapolis 500, etc.)? Describe your experience. Talk about the energy you felt leading up to and during the event. What was the environment like? What did you see and hear?

Go
(your group on mission)

Look for opportunities to demonstrate a victor's spirit as you interact in the world and with others this week. Seek to live beyond the influences of the world such as gossip, judgment, social status, accumulation, etc. and praise God for the power He has given you to do so through His Spirit. Live, speak, work and play as lights in the world. (Philippians 2:12-18)

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Key Scripture

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, ESV)

Key Word Study

The Greek word *nikao* is the word translated "overcome" in our key scripture verse. At its root is the Greek word *nike* which means success, victory. As used in John 16:33, the word *nikao* carries with it the idea of depriving something of its power or subverting its influence. Jesus is telling us in this passage that he, the God man, fully human has succeeded in depriving this world of its power and influence over him. The wonderful promise to us is that we too, being only human, can likewise attain victory over the world through Him.

Discussion

1. Have someone begin your discussion time by leading the group in prayer, then read John 13:1, John 13:31-35 and 16:25-33 aloud.

2. Let's set the scene. In John 13, Passover is drawing close and Jesus knows "that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." (John 13:1) Jesus washes the feet of the disciples and he begins to reveal what he knows to them. At the risk of sounding irreverent, he says, in essence, "it's game time." As Jesus speaks, they start to realize he is about to leave them. What do you think they may be thinking and feeling at this point? How would you feel had you been there?

3. In John 13:1, we learn somethings about the disciples. The disciples were "his own." Jesus saw them as belonging to Him. They were part of His house and His family, which is the house and family of God. How does knowing we are "his own" affect your daily life? How does it shape your thinking and your behavior?

4. Something else we learn about the disciples is that they "...were in the world, ..." There are two things in play here. The disciples learn that they will not be following Jesus where he is going. They are staying where they are, in the world. Also, the world will continue to exert its influence on them after he is gone. Discuss as a group what the disciples might be thinking knowing that the friend they have followed for three years is apparently leaving them to themselves. How might you have felt?

5. We see something in this verse about the depth of Jesus' love. Jesus "loved them to the end." This phrase indicates that Jesus loved them to his final earthly breath, but it means so much more. His is a love that transcends time, place and circumstances. Jesus loves "his own" with a love that cannot be measured and will never decrease. This phrase reminds us that Jesus' love is a never-ending love. Talk as a group about what it means to be loved "to the end." What would the world look like if we loved others, in a world where love is so distorted, situational and conditional, "to the end" just as Jesus loves us?

6. In John 13:34, Jesus gives the disciples marching orders, a part of his game plan. He issues this new commandment, "...just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another..."

Our study passage comes near the end of a section of scripture called "The Upper Room Discourse" or Jesus' "Farewell Discourse" (John 14 – John 17). They are in Jerusalem which is buzzing with noise and energy as preparations are made for the Passover. Hundreds of thousands of people are gathering. It is likely the best and worst of the city and its people are on display for all to see. How might what they see and hear as they enter and move about the city be shaping the mindset of the disciples as they are told to love one another, and the world they see and hear around them, as he has loved them?

7. Maybe we can look at Jesus' words in John 14-16 as a spiritual pre-game speech. It is nearly time for them to take the field. He recounts to the disciples, now without Judas Iscariot who left in the night to betray him (John 13:21-30), what he has shown and taught them, what they have experienced and know about him, what they have put into practice in their lives and what they can and should expect for themselves and of the world. Do you think they believe they can go on without Jesus there? Why or why not? How do you think you would feel right now?

8. Finally, Jesus says something that pricks their hearts! Re-read John 16:33. Jesus encourages them with this powerful statement... "... I have overcome the world." Imagine with me for a moment that this might have been the image Jesus was painting in their spirits, "You've seen my life lived out right here in front of you. You are eyewitnesses that I am who I said that I am. You have seen and heard the religious leaders say that I am not the promised conquering king Israel has been waiting for. You have seen God work through me, a human being just like you. I have held nothing back from you. Do you hear all that outside our window? None of it has any power over you. I have overcome all of it. Every bit of what the world has thrown at me has been defeated through the power of and to the glory of God the Father. Do you believe that? Do you believe you can overcome too? You can. Have my peace. You can, no you will, have victory over this world because God will give to you everything He has given to me if you will only ask (John 16:23-24)." So, do you believe that Jesus is who he says he is... the Victor, the Overcomer of the world? If the world still has influence over parts of your life, how does Jesus' proclamation and promise of victory encourage and give you confidence and peace that you too can overcome?

Give
(your group serving each other)

Use your prayer time today and throughout the week to ask that the influences of the world (be as specific as you can) are deprived of their power over members of your small group to the praise and glory of the Victor, our Lord Jesus.