

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

INVICTUS

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Message by Dave Cooper



MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

Small Group Staff: Pray for discernment and wisdom as we interview candidates for the open small group positions here the Rock. That God would direct us to the right candidates and that He would move on those candidates' hearts to respond to His call on their life.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – INVICTUS: AN UNCONQUERABLE SPIRIT

As a kid growing up in a home filled with Boston sports fans, I always loved to catch a good game. Whether it was the Red Sox the Celtics or my personal favorite the New England Patriots there wasn't a better feeling as a young sports fan as when your team was "conquering" the other team. Especially when it became clear that the other team was out of reach of making a come back, when the opponent was officially "conquered". On the other hand, there probably wasn't a worse feeling than when your team had been "conquered" and had no shot to make a come back.

As Christ followers, we live in a tension filled life of Spiritual Warfare, full of opposition from the Enemy, the World and our own Flesh. Between the temptations, guilt, conflicts and trials of life it can feel like we have been conquered but in reality Jesus has already conquered our guilt, our sin, our shame and our enemies at the Cross. (Col. 2:13-15)

We need to remember that Jesus has already won the game, conquered our enemies and has a future and hope for us that we can't even imagine. (1 Cor. 2:9-10) Right now, whatever you're going through, no matter how hard it is, it isn't the end! (2 Cor. 4:8-18) We aren't conquered, in the end, we will be fully healed, fully restored, and we'll live freely in a reality where there is no more struggle with sin, grief over death, gripping fears, or painful tears. (Rev. 7:14-17) But until that becomes a physical reality in the future, the Bible says we can live in that spiritual reality NOW through the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:35-39) When we do this we are walking in an "INVICTUS Spirit."

How can we cultivate this "unconquerable" spirit and live in the spiritual realities that through Christ we are more than conquerors? That's what we'll be discussing in this week's small group questions.

Getting Started

1. Have you ever "conquered" or finished something? (Whether a personal or professional goal, an athletic or academic accomplishment, an addiction, a book, etc.) How did it make you feel afterwards?
2. As Christ followers why is it hard for us to feel like conquerors or "more than conquerors"?

Digging Deeper

3. In Romans 8, Paul describes Christ followers as conquerors. Read Romans 8:18-27
 - a. What words and vivid images describe how hard life can be in the present time?
 - b. Read verse 19 again. How can our “eager expectation” of our future hope help us cope with our present problems and trials?
 - c. Read verses 26-27. How can the Holy Spirit’s help also encourage us?
4. Read Romans 8:28-39. Describe the mood of these verses.
 - a. In verse 28 Paul talks about “the good” and “his purpose.” According to verse 29, what is God’s good purpose for all of us as Christ followers?
 - b. In verse 31 Paul asks “What, then, shall we say in response to this? How are you encouraged by Paul’s own answer to this question? (His answer is in verses 31& 32)
 - c. In verses 33-34 Paul imagines a courtroom in which God the Father is a judge and Jesus is our defense attorney. How and why would they (Jesus and the Father) reply to any charges brought against us by an accuser? (Satan is most likely the accuser, see Rev. 12:9-11 for more on this.) How does this make you feel?
 - d. Read verses 35-36. How might trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger or the threat of death (Another words the trials and pain of life.) cause us to questions God’s love for us?
 - e. In spite of all these things, why does Paul write in verses 37-39 that we are “more than conquerors”?

Bringing it Home

In light of everything we just read about God’s love for us and His Spirit with us it’s really important that we personalize this truth.

5. Reread verses 31-39. How do these verses comfort and reassure you of Jesus’ love for you in the midst of life’s pain, sin, struggles, fears, conflicts and shame?
6. What area of your life do you feel “conquered” by and need to be encouraged in by the fact that you are “more than a conqueror” because of what Jesus has done on your behalf? Split up into groups of two or three and share the areas you feel “conquered” in and then pray for each other in regards to those “conquerable” areas.
7. Spend time together as a large group thanking God for the fact that the Holy Spirit gives us not only victory over sin but also comfort, strength, assurance, and hope for a glorious future!