

MOSAIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

# **More than conquerors**

**Romans 8:37, 2Corinthians 2:14**

MATERIAL FOR GROWTH GROUPS

October 2023 Week 1-4

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## WEEK 1

### Perseverance, Endurance, and Finding Hope in Difficult Times

**Scripture: John 16:33 NIV** “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.”

**Goal:** learn how to deal with hard times, hold on, and overcome depression

#### Introduction:

Facing hard times is inevitable in our lives and that is why you should not blame yourself if you are going through hard times because some troubles cannot be avoided. This October we are going to learn more about being victorious in hard times and how to be victorious over sins and temptations. If you are currently going through hard times or coming out of hard times, you can always find encouragement in what Jesus taught in John 16:33. We do not have to live discouraged in a discouraging world, we can still live in full life (Zoe life!), knowing that in the end we will be victorious. You are not passing through hard times because God has abandoned you, the truth is that other believers are passing through the same hard times because the devil is always on a hunt like a lion looking for who to devour [A]. Hardships are always painful, difficult, and miserable, we usually ask, “*Why is this happening to me?*” and we rarely get the answer we are looking for. They make us doubt what we believe because our faith is being tested [B]. Regardless of how trials enter our lives, they can be used as a tool to strengthen and develop our character and our faith [C]. When we go through things that test our patience and resilience, we can both work with the trial and allow it to strengthen us or we can keep fighting against it. It is incredibly difficult to allow hard times to refine us but when we do, the finished product, which is a better, godlier version of ourselves, is worth it [D].

(A) 1PETER 5: 8-9, (B) 1Peter 1:6-7, (C) Romans 5:1-5, (D) James 1:2-4

#### Discussion

- 1) How do you typically respond when faced with difficult times and trials?
- 2) According to James 1:2-4, what is the purpose of trials and how can they lead to maturity?
- 3) In what ways can we find hope and comfort in God during challenging moments, as mentioned in Psalm 34:17-18?
- 4) Share a personal experience of overcoming a tough situation through faith and perseverance.
- 5) How can we support and encourage one another within the church community when dealing with hardships and depression?

#### Conclusion

People respond in different ways when faced with hard times and trials. Whatever kind of difficulties you are facing; remember that in all things you have victory through Christ, so take heart [E]. In case you do not know or in case you forgot, you will never be tested beyond your capacity, which means that you have the strength to face everything you go through [F] but what do we do meantime? When waiting for our miracle. Here are some suggestions for us while we wait in our struggle; Praise God in your pain [G], be patient, and pour out your heart to God through prayers [H, I], find encouragement in the scriptures [J] and Keep eternity in mind [K]. Have faith always because when faith succeeds it results in the ability to endure. Through your experience of overcoming tough situations, other believers

can learn more about it, so be encouraged to share your experience and testimonies. You can also support other believers going through hardships and depression in the following ways; be present and listen, pray for and with them, share God's word with them, offer practical help, and encourage them to seek professional help, model compassion, be patient, encourage fellowship, Avoid Trivializing or Blaming and stay connected. We can learn a lot about how to deal with hard times, hold on, and overcome depression, we can conclude by advising each other to put our trust in God and focus our minds on him, he will show us the right way [L].

(E) Romans 8:35-39, (F) Philippians 4:13, (G) Psalm 28:7, (H) Romans 12:12, (I) Philippians 4:6-7, (J) Romans 15:4, (K) Romans 8:17-18, (L) Proverbs 3:5-6

### **Prayer**

Dear Father, I thank you that you are always there for me and you always hear whenever I cry out to you. Today I pray that you help me with all the hardships I am going through and give me strength to keep on going, in the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

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## **WEEK 2**

### **Overcoming sins and temptation**

**Scripture: Romans 6:14** “For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”

**Goal:** learn how to have victory over Sin and conquer temptations.

#### **Introduction**

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why am I still wrestling with that sin?” Even Apostle Paul said as much in Romans 7:15: “I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.” How do we stop sin from affecting our spiritual lives? Is it even possible? When Jesus defeated Satan’s temptations he left him for a while [A]. If our Lord faced temptation, so will we. The truth is; that the devil is real and you are his enemy as long as you obey God. Jesus warned us that the devil is like a roaring lion looking for who to devour [B] he tempts and deceives everyone. So be careful what you engage yourself in because after desires are conceived, it gives birth to sin and it gives birth to death [C]. As Christians, we have been given the power to conquer sin and temptation [D] so let us resist all the things that can make us sin since sin has no dominion over us anymore.

[A] Luke 4:13, [B] 1 Peter 5:8 [C] James 1:15 [D] 1 Corinthians 10:13:

#### **Discussion**

- 1) How do you define victory over sin in your journey of faith?
- 2) What role does God's grace play in overcoming sin, as mentioned in Romans 6:14?
- 3) How can we apply the principles of 1 Corinthians 10:13 to resist and overcome temptations?
- 4) Share practical strategies or testimonies of overcoming specific sins in your life.
- 5) In Psalm 25:4-5, David seeks God's guidance in his walk. How can we similarly seek God's direction to avoid sin and make righteous choices?

#### **Conclusion**

Different Christians can define victory over sin in different ways depending on their faith journey and understanding, one possible way people can define victory over sin is; by continually seeking to live following the commandments of God and aligning their thoughts and actions with His desire. It means recognizing the areas of your life where you battle with sin and actively seeking God's assistance and direction to resist those temptations. To overcome sin, a person must continually grow, repent, and depend on God's grace to change thoughts and behavior. Romans 6:14, this verse serves as a reminder that, as Christians, we are no longer under the rule of sin but rather are under the grace of God. God's grace is His undeserved kindness and divine power shown to us. In the context of overcoming Sin, God’s grace offers several essential elements; Forgiveness of our sins through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and empowerment, God's grace empowers us with the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us, guiding, convicting, and enabling us to resist temptations and overcome sin. In addition, Grace offers Transformation of our hearts and desires and aligns them with God’s will God’s grace offers freedom that liberates us from the bondage of sin and Sustenance in our journey of faith. It provides the strength and perseverance needed to endure in the battle against sin. We can apply 1 Corinthians 10:13 by teaching ourselves that every temptation or sin that comes to us is normal to every

humankind and God cannot allow us to be tempted beyond our capacity which means that with every sin you battle with or temptation, you are equipped to overcome it. We can seek the same guidance in Psalm 25:4-5 by praying and asking God to teach us his ways so that we may live according to them.

**Prayer**

Dear Father, thank you for today's teaching about having victory over Sin and conquering temptations. I pray for grace to avoid every temptation and sin that may come my way. And I pray that may you teach me your ways so I can live according to your will, in the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

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## **WEEK 3**

### **Dealing with Pressure and Faith**

**Scripture:** **Isaiah 41:10 NIV**, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Goal: to learn how to navigate challenges with unwavering faith.

#### **Introduction:**

At some point in our lives, we all find ourselves overwhelmed by pressure. We might be there due to sickness, job loss, demands of life, or the death of a loved one. It might be because of disability, relationship issues, financial insecurity, etc. What many Christians tend to forget sometimes is that; God did not promise us an easy life on earth [A]. In the book of Job (Job 1:20-22, Job 2:9-10, Job 19:25-2), we see a righteous man who did not have a perfect life but had many difficulties. He was faced with many adverse situations and lived through pain and loss. But even in the midst of all that, Job did not allow emotions to control him to curse God and die as his wife advised him, he did not put trust in his friends, or try to fight by himself. God, in His word, has promised to save us from all the troubles [B] and he will always save all those who go to him for protection. According to the Bible, we are supposed to leave all our worries for him because he cares for us [C] so why worry? Instead, be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God will surpass your heart [D]. Another truth is that God is the only one who gives victory [E], so all we have to do is to put our trust in him. Putting your faith in God can be easy for you if you understand that God’s plan for your life is to give you a hope and a future and not to harm you [F]. After meditating on that verse, it should be easier to put our trust in God’s hand knowing that he wants only the best to happen to us.

(A) John 16:33, (B) Psalm 34:20-22, (C) 1Peter 5:7 (D) Philippians 4:6-7, (E) Proverbs 21:31, (F) Jeremiah 29:11

#### **Discussion**

- 1) How do external pressures and trials affect your faith and relationship with God?
- 2) What does it mean to "persevere under trial" as mentioned in James 1:12?
- 3) How can we focus on the eternal perspective, as suggested in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, when facing challenges?
- 4) Share a personal testimony of how your faith was strengthened during a difficult time.
- 5) What practical steps can we take to maintain our faith and hope in the face of pressure and adversity?

#### **Conclusion**

External pressures and trials can make you discouraged and dismayed. It can make you doubt God’s promises and some people start questioning the whole existence of God when they are passing through many problems, that’s how far the pressure of life can affect people. In Genesis, we see an example of Rachel, Jacob’s beloved wife who could not conceive a child. In ancient times, this was a terrible reproach for a woman. Rachel’s discouragement at being barren led her to bitterly cry out to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I die!” [G] This statement shows us how barrenness affected Rachel

to the point she wanted to die. Persevering under trial is sometimes hard but God has promised to bless everyone who perseveres under trial [H]. If you persevere through the test of hardships, expect blessings from a great reward which is the crown of life God promised those who love him as mentioned in James 1:12. When going through hardships we can focus on the eternal perspective, as encouraged in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. We can achieve this and boost our faith by regularly meditating on God's Word, engaging in Prayer and Worship, surrounding ourselves with a supportive community of believers who encourage us to keep our eyes on eternal life and providing practical help during challenging times, and Reflecting on past victories and testimonies of God's faithfulness. All those things mentioned can also serve as practical steps we can take to maintain our faith and hope in the face of pressure and adversity.

(G) Genesis 30:1, (H) James 1:12a, (I) 2 Corinthians 4:16-18,

### **Prayer**

Dear Father, thank you for today's teaching on navigating challenges with unwavering faith. I pray that I will never be afraid but I will always put my trust in you and remember that your plans are good for me. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

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## **WEEK 4**

### **Living as Overcomers in a Challenging World**

**Scripture: John 15:18-20 NKJV:** “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will keep yours also.”

Goal: to learn how to live victoriously by Applying God's Word to Everyday Challenges

#### **Introduction:**

It is challenging to live in a world that hates you and prosecutes you but as Christians we belong to God who has already defeated the devil and given us victory; also, the Spirit in us is more powerful than the spirit of those who belong to the world [A]. People of the world have many things they believe in to keep on going in this world but for us Christians, we are called to keep the Book of the Law always on our lips; meditate on it day and night, so that we may be careful to do everything written in it; then we will be prosperous and successful, not only prosperous in world terms but in our spiritual journey as well [B]. As simple as that, that’s what we are supposed to do to be able to navigate triumphantly in this challenging world! In this week's study, we'll look at practical instances of how we can apply the guidance and promises provided in God's Word to conquer challenges in life. We'll talk about the value of regularly reflecting on the Bible; actual instances of how God's Word has changed people's lives; the value of supportive communities; and particular issues we face in today's world where biblical principles can help us live victorious lives.

[A] 1 John 4:4, [B] Joshua 1:8

#### **Discussion**

1. How has your personal experience of regularly reflecting on God's Word changed the way you approach problems and make decisions?
2. Can you share an instance from your life where you applied the truth of 1 John 4:4 to overcome a specific challenge or obstacle? What did you learn from that experience?
3. How does the support and encouragement of fellow believers contribute to living victoriously in a challenging world?
4. What are some specific challenges or issues in today's world where we need to apply the principles of Scripture to live as overcomers?
5. What role does faith and prayers play when applying God's Word to Everyday Challenges?

#### **Conclusion**

We discussed how consistently reflecting on God's Word can change the way we think about issues and make decisions. Joshua 1:8 emphasizes the value of studying the Bible continuously throughout the day and night. As we diligently follow the instructions, we experience both material success and a great sense of spiritual flourishing. The truth of 1 John 4:4 can be a source of strength in overcoming specific challenges and obstacles. By recognizing the greater power of God within us and by the help of the Holy Spirit, we can face adversity with courage and unwavering faith. We know that iron sharpens iron [C]. Other Christians can also teach us and encourage us with the word of God on how

to live victoriously in today's era. Also, through the testimonies of other believers who overcome their challenges, faith can be stirred up in our heart to overcome whatever we are going through [D]. As many Christians say, the bible is a manual to the believers, so we can apply Bible principles of Scripture on every challenge or issue. The book of 1 John 5:4 describes our Victory over the world and that every child of God can defeat the world [E]. As we draw towards the end of this month's topic, more than conquerors, remember that We have Victory through Christ who strengthens us[F]. Let us keep in mind that faith, which is an essential component of a Christian's journey on earth, plays a significant role in how we apply the Bible to problems we face on a daily basis. Faith in God's promises and His Word gives us confidence that He is in control and will bring good out of our everyday struggles. Even in the face of challenging circumstances, faith enables us to put our faith in our knowledge of God's wisdom, love, and power. Prayer also plays an important role, as a way for us Christians to interact with God. Through prayer, we are able to ask God for assistance, courage, and wisdom to apply God's Word to the problems we face on a daily basis (G). It's a method to align one's will with God's will and ask for His help when things get tough.

(C) Proverbs 27:17, (D) Revelation 12:11, (E) 1 John 5:1-5 (F) Philippians 4:13, (G) Philippians 4:6-7

### **Prayer**

Dear Father, I thank you for this month's teaching, I'm more than a conqueror in you. I pray that I will keep studying your word and applying it in all situations, and I pray that you will keep guiding me in life. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.