



You Cannot Lose If You Will Not Quit

Week of September 13, 2015

*Use these discussion for personal growth and development,
or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.*

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Our fight is already won, but we aren't off the hook just yet. Even though Jesus already won all the battles that we will ever have to fight, he still needs us to make a concerted effort to fight them anyway. But what's great is that we can fight confidently knowing that Jesus not only has our back, but that he has already gone ahead and secured our victory. The Bible never once asks us to be "sideliners." We must take up our crosses daily and follow him. We must stay in the fight!

What is "the fight"? The war between heaven and hell, between good and evil, between truth and lies--between eternal life with Jesus and eternal death without him. The battle is won, but we still have to show up and fight. We must believe that the battle's winnable, and we must act on the promise of victory, eventually when it might not make sense. We need to stop half-living for victory "in the end" and start living boldly *from* victory now!

Pray

God, you have already won, but help us fight the fight despite anything that gets in our way. Give us what we need each day so that we can not only fight, but help others to keep fighting as well. Help us notice the broken world around us put us in situations where we can show others the way to Jesus. Help us be bolder in our faith, and help us reach farther than we ever thought possible on our own.

Getting Started

- Was there ever a moment in your life when you just wanted to give up? Share what happened.
- What are some things that you would attempt if you knew that your success was guaranteed?

Listening Deeply

1. The "fight" could mean a variety of things to different people. What does the "fight" mean to you?
2. When you think about your daily life, what are some ways that you know you need to fight harder?
3. Read 1 John 4:4. Why do you think it is that, despite the profound statement here, the Church is still losing ground to a world that's already been overcome? What can we do differently?
4. What sort of things prevent us from going to "make disciples of all nations" like Matthew 28:19 says? How can we make bold steps to remove these "obstacles"?
5. If we are ensured victory, as long as we keep fighting, then in what ways can we expand our visions for what we want to achieve? How far can we really go to share the love of Jesus?
6. In what specific ways can this Connect Group move in bold new ways to get more people involved and bring more people to Jesus?

Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus has paved the path to victory, and all he asks us to do is walk it daily and to show the world the way. He has given us everything we need to win the battle. Have courage and be bold! Jesus will guide you if only you will follow. Just like the questions got you thinking...

- Make a list of ways that you, personally, and the group, as a whole, can take steps to move in a bolder direction.
- Make a list of people you want to invite to the group.
- Come up with ways that the group can serve to further the kingdom of God. How can we, as God's people, achieve the dream of a church of 5,000 growing disciples-and more?