

Holiday Survival Guide

Take The Long View (Wk.4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

When we take the long view, our troubles don't have the final say. Jesus does.

Key Scriptures

...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
1 John 5:4-5

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

We live in the moment and thus have become "momentarians" – a people who live for today at the expense of the future. This cannot continue.
– Bradley A. Blakeman

When we get stuck in the troubles of today, we miss out on God's bigger story for tomorrow.

What takes your eyes off Jesus?

- Fear – fear of the future, fear of failure, fear of "what ifs?"
- Control – unwillingness to give Jesus all of yourself and your life.
- Complacency – getting lulled into the "average-ness" of everyday life.

Start talking.

- Joel talked about how his love of pie can overwhelm his better judgment. What food is like that for you?
- Why do the holidays seem to highlight our propensity to focus on the "short term"?
- What are some of the negatives to consistently taking the short view?

Start thinking.

- Read the quote by Bradley A. Blakeman. What are your thoughts about his concept of "momentarians"?
- Read 1 John 5:4-5. Why was this idea of "overcoming" so important for John to share?
- John says we must be "born of God" if we are to overcome. What does that mean?
- Read John 16:33. Why should it give us courage that Jesus has "overcome the world"?

Start sharing.

- What are the "troubles of today" that pull your focus off of Jesus?
- How does that shift in focus limit/prevent you from walking in the freedom and fullness of life Jesus intended for you?
- Fear, Control, and Complacency. Which of those is a bigger and more personal obstacle for you?
- Read Revelation 21:3-6. The long view is that Jesus wins. By faith we will inherit all that he has prepared for those who are "victorious". How does this truth impact your everyday life in the midst of daily troubles?

Start doing.

- The Word of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit has the power to transform our minds and change our hearts. Therefore, choose from the passages in 1 John, John, or Revelation, a verse(s) to write down and memorize. Jesus said we would have trouble, but his death and resurrection prove that He has overcome and that our troubles will not have the final say.

Closing prayer.

Lord Jesus help me in the midst of my daily trials, pains, and troubles. Draw near to you and remind me that even though life is often hard, you are writing a bigger and more wonderful story than I can possibly imagine. Help me to cling to the truth and hope that you alone will have the final say. That through faith, we will win.