

Current

Love Conquers

1 JOHN 5:1-5

SESSION 7.19



☐ *Prepare in Advance*

Before the Session

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the media listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Review the Moral Bucket List and Screen Free Activities
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.

☐ *Introduce*

Ask the group if they celebrated Screen Free week this past week. Share the idea behind screen free week and the activities suggested.

☐ *Ask*

- Are we bound to our screens and devices? What claim is being made by the intention to be "screen free"?
- One hope is that this week will prompt children to "actively concentrate and imagine rather than passively accept what Disney or Nick Jr. think they should look like or play." In what areas of our lives do we passively accept how things should be instead of imagining?
- Read 1 John 5.1-5 aloud. Watch the *Bible Background Video*.

☐ *Ask and Discuss*

- The *Bible Background Video* said that following Christ offers us a new set of expectations. A New York Times author has offered another set of goals for our lives: the moral bucket list. Share some of the highlights from this article. He describes a difference between "two sets of virtues: the résumé virtues and the eulogy virtues."
- What do you think is the difference between resume virtues and eulogy virtues? These are the skills you offer at a job versus the way of life people will describe at your funeral.
- One "shift" listed in the moral bucket list is "energizing love" that "decenters the self." What happens when love makes us look outward? How does it change our actions?

- What kind of "moral bucket list" might be write based on our text from 1 John today? Can you describe one bucket list action?
- Read 1 John 5:4-5 out loud. Each of these items on the bucket list goes along with a person whose life shows "a pattern of defeat, recognition, redemption. They have moments of pain and suffering. But they turn those moments into occasions of radical self-understanding." How do you connect defeats in someone's life with this verse?
- "The stumbler doesn't build her life by being better than others, but by being better than she used to be." Does this sound more like a gospel idea or an idea we see regularly in our world? What do you hear in this idea?
- Nikki said, "When we believe that Jesus is the Christ, we are freed from the heavy weight of the world's expectations." Is this true for you?

☐ *Closing*

Pray together, asking God to free us from the world's expectations and guide us toward redemption and radical love.

By Erin Hall

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