**1. Motivate**

Describe a victory you’ve experienced recently.

* won a round of golf, a chess game, an X-Box video game, a session of Monopoly, …
* family awarded me “best dressed”
* made it to my 50th, 60th, … birthday/anniversary
* got all the kids graduated
* finished a graduate degree
* our team won state/national championship
* earned a certification in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* survived spring cleaning

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_n8qe77se> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4nebb3rx>

* lost \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pounds
* made it through chemo/radiation

**2. Transition**

Some victories are surprises, some are hard earned.

* Today we consider how in Christ, we can have victory over anything the world throws at us.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Jesus’ Resurrection Brings Joy

Listen for Jesus’ reassurance.

John 16:19-22 (NIV) Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? 20 I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. 21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

What human emotions did Jesus place in contrast, and who had which and why?

* weeping, mourning, grief
* will turn to joy
* like childbirth … painful and agonizing
* but then the joy of having the newborn replaces the memory of the pain

To what events does Jesus allude that would cause sorrow?

* they would sorrow over His death
* they wouldn’t remember his statements of the coming resurrection
* they would be very sad, even angry at what would seem to be the end of His ministry
* they would feel abandoned, entirely let down

What did Jesus use to illustrate His point? Why is it appropriate?

* childbirth
* great pain and travail
* when that is over, it is replaced by joy at having the new baby
* the pain is forgotten, and the new life is celebrated

How would you have responded to Jesus’ words had you been there with His disciples?

* confusion at first
* reassurance
* still wonder what He is referring to
* initial disappointment turns to joy
* discover you have to learn to listen and believe what Jesus is saying to you

What is the reassuring promise found in verse 22?

* you will experience grief (in the coming hours)
* Jesus said he would be gone for a time
* He promises to see and be with them again
* then they would rejoice together
* that joy would be forever, no one can take that joy from them

When have you seen a difficulty in life turn into something positive? What grief or sorrow in your life has God turned to joy?

* loss of a job leads to a better situation
* illness or accident forces a pause in your life which God uses to teach you a valuable lesson
* when something bad happens, God demonstrates His sufficiency and sovereignty to meet your needs
* even a simple delay like a broken shoelace or a flat tire ends up causing you to miss a major tragedy

What hope might this passage give you in times of sorrow?

* what seems to be a situation of grief and tragedy can be rescued by God
* God will accomplish good things in our lives, even when the world might be working against us
* God is in charge
* He will accomplish His good purposes for us whatever comes our way

3.2 Victory in Jesus

Listen for a reminder of God’s love.

John 16:27-30 (NIV) No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." 29 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

What truth about God did Jesus affirm?

* God is Love
* God loves each one of us, dearly
* your love of God is known by Him

What are two key elements in establishing a right relationship with God?

* love God the Father
* love God the Son

What four statements about Himself did Jesus declare and what is their significance?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jesus’ Assertions about Himself | Meaning – Significance |
| * I came from the Father * I came into the world * I am leaving the world * I am going back to the Father | * Jesus’ divinity, He is fully God * the incarnation, He is also fully human * speaks of his atoning, substitutionary death * His ascension, returned to heaven, returns in the person of the Holy Spirit |

When you mention Jesus as the “Son of God”, someone says, “I didn’t know God was married.” How do you explain this to an unbeliever or someone who just doesn’t understand?

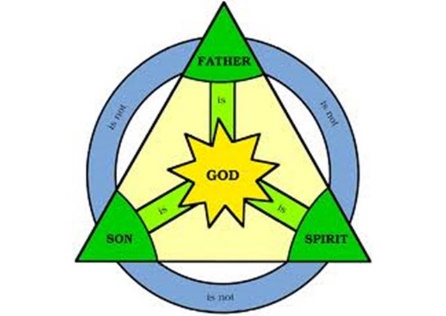
* Scripture speaks of “God the Father” and “God the Son” and “God the Holy Spirit” the three representations or personalities that help us understand what God is like
* Each person of the Trinity ministers to us in different ways

Pose this question, see what responses you get, then present this as lecture material

* God the Son was/is the representation of God who came a human, living in time and space, died and rose again
* God the Holy Spirit is the representation of God as a Spirit who dwells within each believer to whom we are to submit
* we can think of God the Father as that personality/representation of God that was still in Heaven when God the Son was on the earth.
* we don’t have a full understanding of the Holy Trinity, our diagrams help us some, but God is far more than what we can represent in a drawing or describe in words

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3.3 Live in Peace and Courage

Listen for a final word of comfort.

John 16:31-33 (NIV) "You believe at last!" Jesus answered. 32 "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 33 "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."

What was the message behind Jesus’ question in verse 31?

* the disciples are beginning to understand
* He is getting through to them
* note: some Bible scholars think this might have been a question … “So you understand, do you?”

What did He use as an example to show they may not be as strong in the faith as they thought they were?

* He tells them they don’t quite have it all together yet
* they are united as a group now
* but they will be scattered and head off in different directions
* they’ll end up going off home
* they will leave Him alone, their unity split apart

In what ways is verse 31 a strong concluding word for this discourse?

* you will not be blindsided
* I’m telling you these things so whatever happens, you can be at peace
* there will be troubles
* there will be sufferings
* but … take heart, be filled with courage
* know for a certainty that I have overcome the world

What encouragement could the disciples have in the midst of life’s storms?

* Jesus words are for the immediate coming events
* they are also for the days and years ahead
* they are for us as well … there are troubles, sufferings
* we can take heart and be courageous because Jesus has overcome the world

In what ways can you feel God’s presence in the midst of a difficult time?

* God gives you a verse that speaks specifically to the situation
* you hear a sermon or Bible study that seems to be just for you
* God brings to your mind a promise
* if God can make a donkey speak (to Balaam), He can use comments by just about anyone to bring an encouraging thought to you

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Memorize.

* Qr code

  Description automatically generatedSet aside some time each day this week to memorize John 16:33: “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

List.

* Make a list of the difficulties and pains you are facing right now.
* Ask Jesus to help you bear the load you carry.

Help.

* Ask God to make you aware of someone who is suffering right now.
* How can you help them have peace and courage?
* How can you remind them to trust Jesus? Take the initiative this week to reach out to this person.

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KNOW  
LEAVE  
LEAVING  
LITTLE  
LOVES  
MOURN  
OVERCOME  
PAIN  
PEACE  
QUESTIONS  
REJOICES  
SCATTERED  
SEE  
SPEAKING  
SPEECH  
TIME  
TROUBLE  
TRUTH  
WANTED  
WEEK  
WHILE  
WORLD

If you expect to be victorious, you better get to work! Humph! These words aren’t going to find themselves. I suppose you’ve forgotten that the words can go up, down, left, right and even diagonal. Humph! A free book report credit to the first person who finds all the words. HA! For help and other Family Activities go to <https://tinyurl.com/4nebb3rx>

Word Search Puzzle

AGAIN  
ALONE  
ANGUISH  
ASK  
BABY  
BECAUSE  
BELIEVED  
BIRTH  
CHILD  
CLEARLY  
COMING  
DISCIPLES  
EACH  
ENTERED  
FATHER  
FIGURES  
FORGET  
GOING  
GRIEVE  
HEART  
HOME  
JOY