



Small Group Guide: Jesus is Victorious

Opening Prayer & Worship (10 minutes)

Begin by singing "Jesus" or another worship song that focuses on the name and victory of Jesus. Create space for the Holy Spirit to move in your gathering.

Introduction (5 minutes)

This sermon shared powerful stories of God's work in Pakistan, Mozambique, and Brazil, reminding us that Jesus is victorious, He overcomes, and the Holy Spirit is moving globally. Today we'll explore what this means for our lives personally and as a community.

Ice Breaker Question

Share a time when you heard the Gospel for the first time, or when it became real to you in a fresh way. How did it impact you?

Key Takeaways

1. We Are Saved Through Jesus Christ Alone

"Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." - John 14:6

2. Through Jesus, Lives Are Transformed

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone. The new is here." - 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. We Are People Sent by Jesus

"As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." - John 20:21

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Salvation Through Jesus Alone (15 minutes)

Question 1: The Muslim translators in Pakistan heard the Gospel for the first time and asked, "Is it true anyone can be saved?" How does hearing their story change or refresh your perspective on salvation?

Question 2: The sermon mentioned that salvation (Greek: *soteria*) means "rescue, deliverance from enemies, preservation and safety"—not just a ticket to heaven. How does this broader understanding of salvation impact how you view what Jesus has done for you?

Question 3: Read Isaiah 43:1 together: *"Fear not, I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine."* What does it mean that God knows you by name? How does this truth speak to your current situation?

Section 2: Transformation Through Jesus (15 minutes)

Question 4: Cecilia's story showed how encountering Jesus changed her identity, circumstances, relationships, and purpose. Which of these four areas do you most need Jesus to transform right now?

Question 5: Max Lucado said, "God loves you just the way you are, but He refuses to leave you that way." How does this statement challenge or encourage you? What area of your life is God calling you to surrender for transformation?

Question 6: The sermon mentioned that we sometimes come to church as "spectators." What would it look like for you to open your heart more fully to the Holy Spirit's work in your life this week?

Section 3: Sent by Jesus (15 minutes)

Question 7: The team from New Life Church traveled to Brazil and their presence helped reach Leandra and her family. Have you ever felt God calling you to step out of your comfort zone to share the Gospel? What happened?

Question 8: The sermon said, "It's time to go beyond the parking lot." What are practical ways our group can be "sent" into our community—to neighbors, schools, workplaces, or beyond?

Question 9: Read Acts 1:4-8. Jesus told the disciples to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit before going. How can we better rely on the Holy Spirit's power rather than our own strength in mission?

Personal Reflection (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes of silence for each person to reflect on these questions privately:

1. **Salvation:** Have I fully received Jesus as my Savior? Is there anyone in my life who needs to hear that there's a place for them at God's table?
2. **Transformation:** What is one specific area where I'm tired of fighting and need Jesus to transform me?
3. **Mission:** Is God calling me to go somewhere—locally or globally? What is my next step of obedience?

Allow volunteers to share what God is speaking to them.

Practical Applications

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to as a group this week:

Individual Actions:

- **Pray for unreached people groups:** Commit to praying daily for Pakistan, Mozambique, or another unreached area
- **Share your story:** Tell one person this week how Jesus has transformed your life
- **Study your identity:** Read Isaiah 43:1-7 each day and journal about what God says about your identity

Group Actions:

- **Invite someone new:** Each person brings a friend to the next gathering who needs to hear about Jesus
- **Serve together:** Participate in a local outreach (food pantry, community service, etc.)
- **Mission exploration:** Research short-term mission opportunities through YWAM or other organizations
- **Prayer walk:** Walk through your neighborhood praying for each home and family

Church-Wide:

- **Support missionaries:** Consider sponsoring a missionary or Bible translation project
- **Host a missions night:** Invite missionaries to share stories with the congregation
- **Start a missions fund:** Set aside money as a group for future mission trips

Prayer Time (15 minutes)

Break into smaller groups of 2-3 for prayer, focusing on:

1. **Salvation:** Pray for specific people who don't know Jesus yet
2. **Transformation:** Pray for areas where group members need breakthrough and change
3. **Commissioning:** Pray for boldness and the Holy Spirit's power to be witnesses

Closing Prayer: *"Holy Spirit, You are the gift. We receive You fresh today. Transform us, send us, and use us for Your glory. We declare that Jesus is victorious, Jesus has overcome, and nothing can stop Your work in this world. Send us as You sent Jesus—with love, with power, and with Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

Before Next Week

- **Read:** Acts 1-2 (the coming of the Holy Spirit)
- **Memorize:** 2 Corinthians 5:17
- **Action:** Do one thing from your "Practical Applications" commitment
- **Share:** Report back next week on what God did through your obedience

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may be encountering Jesus for the first time or recommitting their lives
- Create space for the Holy Spirit to move—don't rush through questions
- Follow up with anyone who expressed a desire for salvation, transformation, or mission calling
- Celebrate stories of obedience and breakthrough from the previous week

"Jesus won. Go home with this message. Jesus won."