



#WINNING  
A Christian That Wins



## A Christian That Overcomes

### MAIN THING

Find Joy in Overcoming Adversity.

### SCRIPTURE

James 1

### ICEBREAKER

At some point in your life, you've probably been treated like garbage by someone. What did that feel like? How did you handle the situation?

### OPENING THOUGHT

Most people see adversity as a problem, or trials as problems. God sees them quite differently. He sees adversity and problems as a key part of your growth and maturity. We are not called to defeat. We are called to be over-comers. The trials we face become our greatest stories. Our path to fruitfulness, to God's blessing, isn't found through the easy path. It's found through trial and tribulation. For the one who overcomes life's trials and bad circumstances, verse twelve of James 1 says that we receive the crown of life. Many times we are tempted to get angry in bad circumstances. We are tempted to speak quickly, to get angry quickly. The Bible tells us something different; in adversity, we are to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. In our youth, we handle things much differently than we do as adults. As we mature in life, we tend to handle life's curve balls a little better. How does that relate to James 1:2-8? What does this section warn against? What does it encourage? How can you be joyful when it feels like the world is falling apart around us?
3. In verse 13, James says, "When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed." Do people ever blame their sin on God? Why does that happen sometimes? Why is this the wrong way to think?

### LIFE APPLICATION

Read verses 19-27. We see a mandate to not be reactionary, and to do what the Word of God says. How often do you find yourself reacting harshly to negative situations around you? Do you get angry? Depressed? Do you give up? Do you think through your actions BEFORE you follow through, or do you react immediately, and ignore what you've been taught as right? This week, practice patience and self-control. Think through your actions in order to avoid negative reactions and live out God's Word in your life....and find joy in the midst of it.

### CHALLENGE

It's so easy to give up or fall apart when life gets difficult. This is where your group needs to get into action. Don't let each other struggle. Help lift each other up and flip the script. Being in community means being part of a family, and family is there for each other in the good AND bad times. Take some time tonight to lift each other up, and spend some serious time encouraging each other. There may be someone sitting in your group right now who needs this desperately. That person may be you!