

WE WILL OVERCOME - PART 4

Main Points (these points can be taught/discussed over different days.)

***POINT #1 - THE SUBMISSION TEST**

There were 3 main things that happened in Numbers 13 with Caleb and the Israelites... 1) God had prepared a promised land for them, 2) The Israelites had to agree with God in faith to take the land, and 3) They had to overcome the giants to get the land. Just like the Israelites had to overcome the giants to take the promised land, Jesus also had to overcome 3 giants. Do you remember what the word *OVERCOME* means? (Allow the child to answer: to beat/defeat/win against someone, something, and the enemy). Jesus had 3 different tests to pass to overcome...1) the Submission Test, 2) the Opposition Test, and 3) The Resurrection Test. We will have to pass these same tests to overcome the enemy in our life. Let's talk about the Submission test, first.

What does the word SUBMISSION mean? (Allow the child to answer.) It means to give in to power or authority. For example, let's say I (mom or dad) tell you to stop playing and go clean your room. Even though you would rather keep playing, you decided to stop playing and go clean your room just as you were asked. This is submission. It is kind of like obeying. We choose to do what a parent, teacher, etc. asks us to, maybe even if we don't want to do it. Sometimes, submission can also be deciding to not play the game you want to play, but playing what your friend or brother or sister wants to play first. Or letting him/her be the red player in the game, even though that's your favorite.

Jesus had to pass this submission test in order to save us from our sins. Matthew 26:39 says, *"He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."* Jesus prayed this prayer to Father God, right before he was taken away to die on the cross for us. He was asking God, if I don't have to die on the cross, I don't want to. But, I want to do what you want me to do. I want to do what you want to do, MORE than what I want to do.

Just as Jesus was in submission to the Father, we must be in submission to God also. Sometimes, it's not easy to do what someone else wants us to do, especially if it's not something we want to do or like to do. Maybe when we get really mad, we want to throw our toys down or slam our door, but we know that behavior is not allowed in our house. So, we choose to show self-control and not do either of those things, but instead we talk with Jesus about being mad. Choosing to follow Jesus and be in submission to Him and His plans and His ways are not always easy, but they are always best.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Can you remember what submission means?
- 2) Can you think of a time that you chose to do something that a parent/teacher asked you to do, even though you didn't want to do it? (Ask your child to share)
- 3) Can you think of a time that you chose to let someone else decide what to do or play first, instead of what you wanted to do? (Ask your child to share)
- 4) Can you think of and share about times that you submit to Jesus?

Scripture Memory Verse: *"He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."* - Matthew 26:39 NLT

Prayer: Jesus, we are so thankful that you passed the submission test and provided a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and have a relationship with God. We thank you for being the example that we get to follow, and that we get to read about your examples in the Bible. We ask you to help us submit to those in authority in our own lives, our parents, grandparents, school teachers, principals, church teachers and leaders, police officers, our president, and all those in authority in our lives. Most importantly, we ask that you help us to submit to you and your ways and your plans for us. Help us to submit to you even when it's really hard and even when we do feel like it or want to. Help us to submit to your ways even when others don't. We ask for the strength to submit, Holy Spirit. We pray all of these things, in Jesus's name, amen.

***POINT 2 - THE OPPOSITION TEST**

Just like the Israelites had to overcome the giants to take the promised land, remember that Jesus also had to overcome 3 giants. He had 3 different tests to pass to overcome. Do you remember what the first test was? (Allow the child to answer: the Submission Test). The other two were the Opposition Test, and the Resurrection Test. Remember, we will also have to pass these same tests to overcome the enemy in our life. We've talked about the Submission test, so now let's talk about the Opposition Test.

What does the word OPPOSITION mean? (Allow the child to answer.) It means to disagree or resist. To not give in to someone or something. Typically, when we play an athletic game, basketball for example, we play against the OPPOSING team. That team is coming against us, trying to beat us. We have to play hard and fight back so our team will win and beat the OPPOSING team.

The enemy brought opposition and temptation against Jesus to try to get Him to sin. The enemy opposed Jesus and he opposes us today. He will bring opposition and temptation against us too. He will try to get us to lie when we get in trouble, to behave wrongly when we are mad, to say something mean to a friend or brother or sister, to disobey our parents and teachers. He will try to get us to oppose Jesus and His ways and commands for us. But, we have hope, because Jesus passed the Opposition Test. And, because Jesus passed the Opposition Test, and stood up against the enemy, so can we. We can **STAND** up against the enemy.

Jesus resisted the enemy when he brought oppositions and temptations against Jesus, and Jesus also used the Word of God against the enemy. The Bible tells us in Ephesians chapter 6 verse 17 that the Word of God is like a two-edged sword, a weapon to use against the enemy. When the enemy would try to oppose and tempt Jesus, Jesus would speak the Word of God out loud to the devil. In Matthew 4, when Jesus was being opposed and tempted by the enemy, he started every sentence with, "It is written..." He was telling the enemy what the Word of God said. God's Words are **POWERFUL**, more powerful than the devil, and His words are promises. We know that He is faithful to fulfill His promises, **ALWAYS**. This is why the Word of God is like a weapon against the enemy, because God keeps His promises to us who believe and trust in Jesus. We have the same power and authority that Jesus had to overcome the enemy when we speak the word of God. In Luke 10:19, Jesus says, "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over **ALL** the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." We can **STAND** up against the enemy and defeat him, just like Jesus did!

Discussion Questions

- 1) Do you remember what the word OPPOSITION means? (Allow the child to explain)

- 2) Can you remember a time that you have had opposition from someone or something? (Allow child to answer)
- 3) How has the enemy opposed you or tempted you recently? How? (Allow the child to share)
- 4) Did you overcome or beat him? If so, how did you do that? (Allow the child to share)

We can take authority over all the things the devil brings in opposition against us. We can tell fear and worry, and stress and anger, and sadness to get out of us, in the name of Jesus. We can tell him to silence his voice. We have power and authority against the enemy!

Scripture memory verse: *"Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."* - Luke 10:19

Prayer: Jesus, we thank you for passing the Opposition Test against the enemy. We thank you for showing us how we can do the same. Holy Spirit we ask you to help us to be strong, to STAND up against the enemy, to resist him, to speak the Word of God when he comes against us and opposes us. We thank you for giving us the authority over the enemy and promising us that nothing will hurt us. Help us to be brave and bold to believe and trust these truth-filled words. Help us to remember that your words in the Bible, the Word of God, is our weapon against the enemy, that it is a two-edged sword. Help us to remember your Word when we read it, so we may speak it in times when we need it to defeat the enemy. In Jesus's name we pray, amen.

***POINT #3 - THE RESURRECTION TEST**

So far, we have learned how Jesus passed 2 different tests against the enemy. Do you remember what those 2 tests were? (Allow the child to answer: the SUBMISSION test and the OPPOSITION test.) There was one other test that he passed to OVERCOME the enemy. Do you remember what it is? (Allow the child to answer: the Resurrection Test.) Just as Jesus was faced with and passed the Resurrection Test, we will have to do the same in our lives.

What does the word *RESURRECTION* mean? (Allow the child to answer: something dead coming back to life. Something being important again or to be able to be used again.) We know that after Jesus died on the cross, He was raised to life again. When Jesus's mother and some other women went to his tomb on the 3rd day of his death, that He was not there. The stone in front of the tomb was rolled away and He was not in the tomb. The tomb was empty. He was raised to life again, and He is now in Heaven, sitting right beside God the Father. Jesus defeated death, by passing the Resurrection Test. Because Jesus passed it, we can and will too!

Have you ever seen a plant or flowers that looked like they were dying? Maybe they started to look droopy, the leaves were drooping down or starting to wilt, and maybe even look a little brown? It looked like it was dying, but... you or your mom or dad decided to water the plant or flower anyway and give it some sunlight. And, after you did, the next day it looked green again, and the leaves were standing back up and not drooping down. That plant came to life again! It came back to life because you gave it some water and sun. Those are life-giving things that a plant needs to live.

It's the same with us in our lives. Sometimes we can hope and dream to do, to go, or have something. Maybe it is something that Jesus has shown us in our mind, our imagination. And we hope and dream for a long time. Then maybe because it's been such a long time, we decide to give up. Or maybe, someone tells us we need

to stop thinking about that because it will never happen. And then, we make a choice to stop hoping and dreaming and thinking about that idea or place or thing. We let our hope, dream, and idea start to die. And maybe, we let it completely die. But, it's never too late for God. We believe and trust in a LIVING God, a GOD of LIFE and HOPE, not a god of death. A God that loves us and has good plans for us and wants ONLY good things for us. We can make a choice to believe and trust in Him, have hope in Him, and speak life-giving words to our hopes and dreams. We can use the Word of God to bring our hopes and dreams back to life again. We can tell our hope to RISE UP! We can tell our dreams to RISE UP, to come to life again!

Jesus had resurrection power and was raised to life after He died. When we ask Him to live inside our heart, and to be the Lord of our life, we too, have the same resurrection power. We will rise to life again after we die, and be with Him in Heaven. We will defeat death, just like Jesus did!

Discussion Questions

- 1) What are some of your hopes and dreams? (Allow the child to share)
- 2) Have you ever hoped and dreamed about something, but stopped because it never happened? (Allow the child to share)
- 3) Do you believe that Jesus defeated death and lives in Heaven with God the Father? (Allow the child to answer)
- 4) Do you believe that we too will be raised from the dead one day and live with Jesus in Heaven forever? (Allow the child to answer)

****Depending on your child's answers and age and understanding of sin and the gospel, you can offer to lead your child in a prayer to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. You can ask them to pray these words after you: "Dear Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner. I believe that you are God's Son and that you died on the cross for my sin, to save me. Thank you for dying on the cross. I believe that you rose from the dead to give me new life. I want you to be the leader and the Lord of my life. Be my Savior. Help me to live my life for you. Thank you for loving me and thank you for saving me. Amen!"*

****Please see our Fresh Start prayer guide on our website :*

Scripture memory verse: "Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." - John 11:25

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for making the choice God's plan for your life and not your own. Thank you for choosing to not be beat by opposition and temptation. Thank you for choosing to die for us and the whole world and for our sins. Thank you for loving us that much! We thank you that you chose to OVERCOME the enemy with RESURRECTION POWER! Thank you for giving us that same power. Thank you for giving us HOPE when things look like they are dead or no more or over. We choose today to hope in you, to believe and trust in you, to use the same RESURRECTION POWER and authority today to defeat the enemy when he tries to lie to us, to discourage us, to make us feel like giving up. We choose to STAND against Him today and every day, and to RISE UP! We will RISE UP in RESURRECTION POWER! Just like you did, Jesus! We pray all of these things in your mighty, powerful name, amen.

WORSHIP SONG

"My God"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_eRnF0oXaE

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1) Submitting to God - Object Lesson

Materials: One treat or pre-wrapped piece of candy in a really gross, ugly box.

Instructions:

1. Before Class: Prepare before class a small box with one Hershey's Kiss or other pre-wrapped candy or treat in it. Decorate the box in such a way that the children would never want to eat the contents of the box. The more ominous and menacing the appearance of the box, the more effective the illustration will be.
2. Pick one child from the group and ask him if he will submit to eating whatever is in that box. If he asks what is in it, tell him he can't ask you any questions about the contents, just whether or not he'll submit to eating it. If the child refuses to submit, go to another child. Continue asking children if they will submit to eating the contents of the box until one agrees.
3. When the contents are revealed and it turns out to be a treat, explain to the children that submission to God, even when the circumstances seem scary, always turns out for our benefit.

Questions:

- 1) Were you scared to eat what was inside the box? Why?
- 2) Would you be able to trust God if God asked you to do something scary? Explain.

We must choose to submit to God, always, even when we are scared or unsure or mad or sad or frustrated. His plan is always best for us.

***(Object lesson borrowed from: <https://wesleykids.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/submitting-to-god-object-lesson.pdf>)

2) Opposition Activity

Play some ball! The pitcher can pose as the enemy. He will pitch opposition at us, but we will use our sword (the bat) to defeat the opposition he "throws" at us. As you pitch the ball, you can name things the enemy "throws" at us (ex. Fear, anger, bad thoughts, nightmares, anger/hate, sadness, loneliness, etc). The batter will take authority over the opposition and when he hits the ball, the batter will say something like... "I take authority over you (insert opposition) in Jesus's name." "I tell you to GO NOW!" "I am a child of God." "I have all power and authority over you through Jesus."

3) *Jesus is Alive - craft*

<https://churchhousecollection.blogspot.com/2012/03/easter-tomb-jesus-is-alive-cutout-craft.html>

4) *He Is Risen - Coloring pages*

<https://coloringhome.com/coloring-page/1712791?album=he-is-risen-coloring-pages>

<https://coloringhome.com/coloring-page/1747089?album=he-is-risen-coloring-pages>