

# story

Week 4 Leader Guide

## THE WIN

The group member will demonstrate an understanding of the victorious life and be able to share it with others by reviewing and discussing case studies in small groups of two or three.

1-2  
minutes

## SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week we learned that those who place their faith in Jesus have a story of victory now but also forever.

### ASK THIS:

- What is something from the message this week that surprised you? Challenged you?

3-5  
minutes

## WARM UP

### ASK THIS:

- What is your favorite movie or story of victory?
- Why are we drawn to stories of victory?
- What is it about overcoming obstacles or barriers that cause us to desire victory so deeply? Why are not content with defeat?

30-35  
minutes

## THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

### DO THIS:

Move to groups of 2-3, read the following case studies and then answer the below questions:

Jeff has a somewhat connected life, there's always room for improvement. Jeff is close with his parents and his 2 brother. His wife and 4 small kids provide him daily motivation to work hard to earn a substantial income. Jeff is also in a small group. At times though, his commitments to his children's ball games, overall fatigue, or an unexpected date night keep him from being consistent to his small group. In short, if there is nothing else on the calendar and Jeff is not too tired, he and his wife will attend their small group. Lee (an equally busy father of 3 and husband) is also in the group and has approached the group leader with his desire for the men in the group to function more like brothers rather than acquaintances. The leader agrees but is not sure how the other guys in the

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group will warm to this ideas since everyone is busy. The next group meeting all the guys happen to attend group. During the group discussion time Lee reveals that his oldest son Rhett, who is turning 16 next week, has been asking about alcohol. Lee says that he keeps getting invited to parties but thinks alcohol might be there and is unsure about whether or not to attend. While Lee is proud of his son for his honesty, he wants Rhett's first experience with alcohol to be in his presence. Lee says he know that in time Rhett will probably go to parties with alcohol behind his back and that he wants to use this opportunity as a teaching time. This leaves Jeff in shock! Jeff cannot believe Lee would do something so "reckless." Jeff then begins to lecture Lee on the way he would handle the situation. Lee, feeling Jeff's marginal commitment to the group cancels out any opinion he might have, shuts down and is embarrassed for sharing this life decision with the group. As one can imagine Lee's wife begins to get angry at Jeff. She feels Lee has every freedom in Christ to introduce alcohol to their son and Jeff should keep his opinions and convictions to himself. The group leader, knowing Lee wants to build deeper community amongst the guys in the group is sitting there frozen in disbelief. As the leader, how would you handle this?

- What are the main issues in this case study?
- Thinking back to the sermon this week and what we learned about living in victory NOW, in what ways is the group living in victory?
- In what ways is the group not living in victory?
- Who in our group agrees with Jeff's point of view and reasoning? Or at least can sympathize?
- How could the group move towards living victoriously?

Sarah, a wife and mom of 4 rowdy boys is in your group. Her husband Rex owns his own landscaping company and work long hours year round yet they make time to attend group. Each week their prayer request is simply that God would provide patience, endurance, and strength to get through the next week. One day the men in the group were headed to meet up at ihop for some guy accountability time. But Rex didn't show up. You call him to see where he is and he is panicked on the phone. He says "Sarah is gone! She is missing! She made dinner for the boys and us, put it on the table, I went to the restroom to wash up from work, I came out and the back door was wide open and she is gone. I don't know what to do. I left the boys home alone and I'm in my truck searching the neighborhood looking for her." You rally the men in the group, leave ihop, and join the search party. When you arrive to the neighborhood you learn Sarah was found a few streets over at a friends house chugging wine and in a catatonic state. Rex assures you everything will be fine. A few days later Rex calls you in the middle of the morning and says "I wanted to let you know Sarah and I decided to admit her to a psychiatric hospital for 10 days. Let me take off the mask and fill you in on what is happening in our hell. About 4 weeks ago my son Logan broke several fingers on both of his hands. Actually I was dragging him up the stairs because he refused to go to bed and while I was dragging him I broke a small bone in each wrist. It was an accident and I feel terrible. His school thought that sounded suspicious so they reported it to CPS. A case worker showed up unannounced at our door and Sarah got freaked out. The case has since been closed as being unfounded but the damage was done. You see, when Sarah was 13 her parents allowed her 17 yrd old male cousin to stay with them since his parents were going through hard times. At night he would sneak into her room and abuse her. He threatened to tell and say Sarah wanted it so she was scared and didn't say a word until a year later. She told her counselor at school who immediately called CPS and the Police. When Sarah's mom found out she was mortified and convinced Sarah to lie about the whole thing so her cousin didn't get put in jail and break up the family. So, she lied, the cousin moved out, and she has repressed the horror all these years....until CPS knocked on our door 4 weeks ago. Yesterday I found Sarah unresponsive laying on the bed with prescription anxiety medication and Vodka. In fact, she has been hiding liquor all over the house for the past month trying to mask the panic and pain. I don't know what to do. She is terrified I will divorce over this which is crazy because I love her, she is mine to protect, and I made a covenant to stay and nurture her through bad times when I married her. But as of today her mind is broken and our family feels decimated.

- What are the main issues in the case study?
- If Rex and Sarah were in your group what Scripture references could you give them about the victory found in Christ? How does the Bible speak to their situation?
- What are some ways Rex and Sarah's group could regularly serve them during this crisis?
- Thinking back to the message this week what would you say to Rex to remind him of our eternal victory in Christ?

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**SAY THIS:**

Okay everyone, let's circle back up in 3 minutes.

**SAY THIS:**

Let's discuss the feedback from your group. Did you find the discussions difficult or did they flow easily?

**Leader Tip:**

*Continue asking follow up questions to get the groups talking. Make sure each group contributes at least a comment or two.*

**SAY THIS:**

Everyone has a story. This Story series has helped us recognize that we have a role to play in God's story. We have even been challenged rethink our everyday living and eternity in the context of God's story. As we close this series out I wonder who in your sphere of influence we can share God's with and invite to our group. The Superbowl is next week and perhaps we should consider introducing God's story to those around us...thoughts?