



HOW TO OVERCOME YOU

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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AUGUST 5, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: It's hard to do the right thing sometimes. Sure - in a vacuum, we can usually determine what God's way is in any situation, and we'd like to think that's the decision we would make. Real life doesn't happen in a vacuum, though, and in the heat of the moment, our sin-nature sometimes wins out over our God-nature.
The struggle is real.

2. BIBLE VERSE:

Romans 8:5-6 [ESV]

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

Q . Have you ever set your mind to do the right thing, and then changed and did the wrong thing in the moment? What made you change?



Q . What are one or two battlegrounds in your life where you wrestle often between doing things God's way and doing things your way?
Why do you think it's such a challenge?

3. DISCUSSION:

Galatians 5:22-24 [NLT]

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."



When we devote ourselves to studying the Bible and listening to the Holy Spirit's direction, we strengthen the push for God's way in our mind and weaken the push for self and sin.

Q . In the struggle to do right, do you normally focus on pushing the sin-nature down or building the God-nature up? Which should it be?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in you to teach you a better way. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow His outlook and attitudes in you so you can win more and more of the struggles in life.



HOW TO BE A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER

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1. POWER VERSE: **Matthew 16:24 (ESV)** *"...If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me."*

What's Up: "I Will Follow God With All Of My Heart!"

This week, we start a brand new series called, "Elisha: God's Powerful Prophet." From the amazing life of Elisha, we learn how to be faithful followers of God! In this lesson, we learn some valuable lessons from the story of Elisha being called to follow the prophet, Elijah. If Elisha had not learned to be a good, faithful follower, he never would have become the powerful, godly leader that he became.

2. READ:

1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2 (NIRV)

Elisha was plowing in a field. Elijah went up to him. He threw his coat around him. He ran after Elijah. Then he started to follow Elijah. He became Elijah's servant. The Lord was going to use a strong wind to take Elijah up to heaven. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. The Lord has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "I won't leave you. And that's just as sure as the Lord and you are alive." There was a group of prophets at Bethel. They came out to where Elisha was. They asked him, "Do you know what the Lord is going to do? He's going to take your master away from you today." "Yes, I know," Elisha replied. "So be quiet." So the two of them walked on. Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan River. Elijah rolled up his coat. Then he struck the water with it. The water parted to the right and to the left. The two of them went across the river on dry ground. After they had gone across, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me. What can I do for you before I'm taken away from you?" "Please give me a double share of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked me for something that's very hard to do," Elijah said. "But suppose you see me when I'm taken away

from you. Then you will receive what you have asked for." They kept walking together. Suddenly there appeared a chariot and horses made of fire. Then Elijah went up to heaven in a strong wind. Elisha saw it and cried out to Elijah, "My father! You are like a father to me! You, Elijah, are the true chariots and horsemen of Israel!" Elisha didn't see Elijah anymore. Then Elisha took hold of his own garment and tore it in two. He picked up the coat that had fallen from Elijah. He went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan River. Then he struck the water with Elijah's coat. "Where is the power of the Lord?" he asked. "Where is the power of the God of Elijah?" When Elisha struck the water, it parted to the right and to the left. He went across the river.



Q. Who showed up and put his cloak around Elisha, saying, "Follow me"? What did Elisha ask for when Elijah was about to ascend into Heaven?

Before we can be a good leader, we first have to learn to be a good follower. Of whom in your life should you decide to be a good follower?



3. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray your children will be faithful followers. Challenge them to be humble, and to be committed to God even through the tough times.