

Note: These questions were pulled from the *The Overcomers Bible Study Guide* curriculum, which you can purchase at the link on the series home page. For the best group experience, order books for everyone in your group.

Get the session started by choosing one or both of the following questions to discuss together as a group:

- OR

- Watch Session 4: *Your Witness to the World* (20 minutes).

[illegible]

DISCUSS

Now discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. God's wrath, judgment, and righteous anger are evidence of His love for His creation. Do you agree that love gets diluted and becomes weak without judgment and accountability? How have you experienced this in one of your relationships with a loved one?

2. The trumpet judgments reveal that many people, in spite of facing the consequences of their idolatry, still refuse to repent and accept God's gift of salvation in Christ. Why do you think so many people resist repentance even when their idols cause them suffering?

3. When have you been able to show empathy for another person's suffering while calling him or her to change direction and move toward God? What were the results of your actions?

4. What are some of the ways that you see the church persecuted and denounced by unbelievers in your community? How does your response reflect God's love as well as His righteousness?

5. The seventh angel announced, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah" (Revelation 11:15). How does it encourage you to know that the church is victorious? How does it influence your interactions with nonbelievers?

It's not easy to see other people suffer from their sinful choices, yet merely pointing out their wrongdoing rarely motivates them to change. Instead, we are called to be "salt" and "light" in the world (see Matthew 5:13–16). We are to lead by example . . . finding the balance between upholding God's standards of righteousness and showing His mercy. So much of how we communicate the gospel comes from our attitude and actions, not just our words! Just as John ate the sweet-tasting scroll only to have it sour in his stomach, so we are called to metabolize God's grace while knowing that others' rejection of it can cause us heartburn.

Do you find it easier to uphold God's standards of righteousness or extend His mercy to those who do not know Him? Explain your response.

How do you express love for people while making it clear you hate the sin in their lives?

How can you respond with the love of Christ the next time you are tempted by *schadenfreude* in response to someone's downfall?

End your time by praying together as a group. As you pray, ask God to help you hold the tension between His judgment and righteousness on one hand and His mercy and lovingkindness in the other. Ask if anyone has prayer requests, and then write down those requests so that you and your fellow group members can continue to pray about them in the week ahead.

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The Overcomers Bible Study Guide

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