



# More Than Conquerors

Leader's Notes Available Online

*(Leaders and participants are encouraged to look up Bible passages for most effective study. Passages are printed below for ease in presentation. "If time permits" sections can be done at home.)*

Brainstorm with your partner or the small group various phrases that contain the words "more than." **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share. Make it clear that everything confided within the group stays within the group. The leader should start to begin discussion. Answers could include: more than meets the eye, more than you can shake a stick at, more than happy, more than ever, more than you know, more than words can say, more than anything, more than you bargained for, more than welcome, or more than one way.**

With your partner or in the small group, define what is usually meant when you hear a phrase that begins with "more than." **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share. Definitions could include phrases such as "greater than expected" or "greater than average in size, amount, extent, or degree." The previous phrases from the first exercise could be used to define "more than."**

In this study, we look at **Romans 8:31-39** where we read in verse 37: ... *in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* Christ Jesus lived a perfect life, suffered and died for each one of us. Because He rose again from the dead, we, too, can look forward to eternal life in heaven with Him. He is victorious and so are we!

**Opening Prayer:** Dear Lord, You are King over all! We praise You for giving the gift of Your Son Jesus to live a perfect life, suffer, die for our sins, and rise to life again. You give us Your Spirit and the faith to believe in Jesus. Because of that faith, Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil becomes ours. What comfort it gives to know that we are *more than conquerors* through Jesus and that nothing can separate us from You! Bless our study of Your Word. In the name of King Jesus we pray, Amen.

## In All These Things

Read **Romans 8** or if you are short on time, focus on **Romans 8:31-39**. In chapter 8, Spirit-led Paul first refers to our life in the Spirit, reminds us that we are heirs of Christ, and then paints a picture of our eternal glory to come. In *what* things does Paul say we are conquerors in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

**In Christ we are conquerors over sin, tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, and sword. Conquerors over death, trials of life, evil spiritual forces, trials in the present and in the future, and anything else in all creation.**

**Romans 8:31-39: <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**If time permits:** Had Paul experienced many of these hardships? See **2 Corinthians 11:23-28**. Compile a list of trials that he endured. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers will vary, but working as a group could include the following: imprisoned, flogged, exposed to death, whipped, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, and moved constantly. In constant danger from within and without, from fellow Jews and Gentiles, and from false believers. Gone without sleep, been hungry and thirsty, and been under pressure for all the churches (stress, anxiety).**

**2 Corinthians 11:23-28: <sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and**

been exposed to death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, <sup>26</sup> I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. <sup>27</sup> I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. <sup>28</sup> Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

Read **Proverbs 21:30-31**, **Romans 3:22b-26**, **Romans 5:6-11**, and **Romans 6:23**. In your own words, declare how Jesus won the victory for us — saved us — against sin, death, and the devil. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.** Why did He have to live a perfect life? \_\_\_\_\_ **He could not sin to fulfill God's justice and righteousness.** Why did He have to die? \_\_\_\_\_ **He, who did not sin, gave up His life for the sins of the world and in that death made believers righteous in God's eyes; He reconciled believers to God, forgives our sins, and gives us the ultimate victory – eternal life. The price (wages) of sin had to be paid.**

**Proverbs 21:30-31:** <sup>30</sup> No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the Lord. <sup>31</sup> The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.

**Romans 3:22b-26:** For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**Romans 5:6-11:** <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**Romans 6:23:** <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Faith Talk:** Read together **1 Corinthians 15:54-57**. What do the words “victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” mean to you? Share with a partner or the small group. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**1 Corinthians 15: 54-57:** <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul progresses through Romans, teaching about the Law and Gospel, justification, and other key facets of the Good News about salvation in Jesus. When he gets to **Romans 8:1-5**, he teaches about the law of the Spirit of life. According to these verses, what does the law of the Spirit of life do for every believer?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Breaks us free the bondage of the law of sin and spiritual death.**

**Romans 8:1-5:** <sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> 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.

**Faith Talk:** Identify trials and sufferings experienced in our world today. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

**Faith Talk:** Identify trials and sufferings that Christians experience today. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.** Read **Romans 5:1-5** and **James 1:12**. What is the hope Christians have even in the midst of trials? **The crown of eternal life in Christ Jesus.**

**Romans 5:1-5:** <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**James 1:12:** <sup>12</sup>Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

**Faith Talk:** Focus on one trial or suffering you have experienced in your life. In hindsight and, if you are comfortable doing so, share with your partner or a small group how the victory in Christ helped you through that trial or suffering. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

## More Than Conquerors

Study **Psalm 144:1-2, 9-10; Zechariah 9:16; John 19:28-30; and Revelation 17:14.** Who has obtained the victory? **The Lord, our Rock, God, Christ Jesus, the Lamb – He is lord of lords and king of kings.**

Over what is He victorious? \_\_\_\_\_

**Over the enemies of His people – namely sin, death, and the devil.**

**Psalm 144:1-2:** <sup>1</sup>Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; <sup>2</sup>he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me. <sup>9</sup>I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you, <sup>10</sup>who gives victory to kings, who rescues David his servant from the cruel sword.

**Zechariah 9:16:** On that day the Lord their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land.

**John 19:28-30:** <sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**Revelation 17:14:** <sup>14</sup>"They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

Scan **Romans 8:2, Galatians 2:20, Galatians 3:27, and 1 John 5:4.** As believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior filled with the gift of faith through the Holy Spirit, who has the victory over sin, death, and the devil? **His victory has become ours through our Baptism and the Spirit's gift of faith.**

**Romans 8:2:** <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

**Galatians 2:20:** <sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 3:27:** <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**1 John 5:4:** <sup>4</sup>For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

We are victorious in Christ Jesus! What does **1 Corinthians 15:57-58** encourage Christians to do? \_\_\_\_\_

**Give thanks to God; remain steadfast, immovable, and working for the Lord.**

**1 Corinthians 15:57-58:** <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

How does the Holy Spirit engender and keep us in faith in Christ Jesus as Lord? See **1 Corinthians 11:23-25, Hebrews 4:12, and 1 Peter 3:21-22.** **Through His Word and Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper).**

Why is it important to participate regularly in God's Word and Sacraments? **These are the ways the Spirit works in the believer's life to give us faith (calls), to keep us in the faith (gathers), to grow our faith as we study God's Word (enlightens), and to sanctify us throughout our lives (sanctifies).** (from Luther's explanation to The Third Article)

**1 Corinthians 11:23-25:** <sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way also he

took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Hebrews 4:12: <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

1 Peter 3:21-22: <sup>21</sup> Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**Faith Talk:** What Bible study plan do you use to read and study God's Word on a daily basis? If you don't use one, describe what kind of a study plan you might use. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

In **Romans 8:31-39**, Paul uses a writing technique of rhetorical questions — questions with answers that are obvious or with no answer expected. How many can you identify in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_ **Seven**

What are the obvious answers to each one? Make a list with your small group. \_\_\_\_\_  
**"Nothing" could be the answer for all. Also, 1. We can't say anything more! 2. No one can be against us if God is for us. 3. Since God gave His own Son, He will give us all things. 4. In Christ, no one can bring charges against us. 5. In Christ, no one can condemn us. 6. No one can separate us from God's love. 7. Even tribulation, distress, persecutions, famine, danger, or sword cannot separate us from God's love. Romans 8:31-39: <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Faith Talk:** When you think of the phrase, "more than conquerors," how would you define it for the Christian? What specific war has been won in Christ? What battles does the Christian have daily? Identify some of your personal battles and pray that God continue to give you strength and courage in the midst of adversity. **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

In **Ephesians 6:10-12**, who are identified as our spiritual enemies? \_\_\_\_\_

**Against the spiritual forces of evil.**

How does **Romans 8:38-39** bolster us for battle? \_\_\_\_\_ **Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ – not even "angels nor rulers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation."**

**Ephesians 6:10-12: <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.**

**Romans 8:38-39: <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The war against sin, death, and the devil has been won for the Christian in Christ Jesus (see **1 Corinthians 15:57**). In a face-off with sin, death, and the devil, it is always "advantage: Christian." Does that make a difference in your daily life? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_ **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share. Answers could include encouragement, hope, or confidence.**

What does Jesus promise each believer in **Revelation 2:10b**?

**crown of life – eternal life in the glories of heaven**

**Revelation 2:10b: Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

***If time permits:*** Read **Ephesians 6:13-20**. Identify the armor the Lord gives us to fight and defend ourselves against the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. **Belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, as shoes put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit, praying in the Spirit**

What is the Christian's one offensive weapon listed in the second half of **verse 17**? **Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God)**

**Ephesians 6:13-20:** <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

***Faith Walk:*** Why do you think that Romans 8:31-39 is often used at funeral services? In what other situations would this Bible passage be especially comforting? **Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share.**

***Faith Walk:***

1. Praise God for the gift of His Spirit, Who breaks you free from the bondage of sin and death. Celebrate your Baptism.
2. Pray that the Spirit continues to grow and mature your faith, even during trials and tribulations.
3. Pray that you remain faithful in God's Word and Sacraments as you live with the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus, knowing that nothing can separate you from Him.
4. Write the words of Romans 8:31-39 on a notecard and use it as a bookmark in your Bible or journal.
5. Connect with someone in your life who needs to hear the Good News about Jesus and ask the Spirit to give you the words to boldly proclaim Jesus as Savior and King.

***Closing:*** Pray, sing, or listen to "Crown Him with Many Crowns" (*LSB* #525; *LW* #278; *TLH* #341).

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