

FROM THE CREATORS OF WAR ROOM



WHAT DO
YOU ALLOW
TO DEFINE
YOU?

ALEX
KENDRICK

PRISCILLA
SHIRER

AND INTRODUCING ARYN
WRIGHT-THOMPSON

OVERCOMER

**This guide contains spoilers,
and is intended to use after a group has seen the film.**

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OVERCOMER

FAMILY GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

“Who are you really?” It’s a fundamental question we all have to answer. Our first instinct may be to respond with a name, what we do, and maybe where we live or where we grew up. But is that enough?

Identity is what people believe to be most true about themselves. It’s their source of value and worth. But what happens when the source we’ve based our identity on fails us or is taken away? It can be crushing.

Enter **OVERCOMER**. Filled with a powerful mix of faith, a twist of humor, and a ton of heart, the Kendrick brothers return to theaters on August 23rd with this most recent feature film. Filled with teachable moments that connect us with God’s Word, **OVERCOMER** invites us to discover who God says we really are and asks the question: what do you allow to define you?

Regardless of your reason for walking through this resource, the goal is a definitive answer to the basic question “Who are you?” As you begin to discover who God is and what it means to be created in His image, you’ll begin to discover all God has called you to be.

“OVERCOMER: CONVERSATION STARTERS” is a tool to help families have meaningful conversations based on the core themes from the movie. Both the film and the Bible have much to say about overcoming challenges, what it means to be part of a family, and how only God determines our identity.

This resource is designed for parents of kids and teens. When used together, the movie and “conversation starters” can provide a great teaching opportunity.

OVERCOMER opens in theaters **Friday, August 23**. Set aside a time to see the movie together, then use this resource to have an informal discussion about it afterward. Take the challenge even further by inviting one of your child’s friends to join you.

What is most true about all of us is that we are made by a God who loves us, and the gospel can bring us into a relationship with Him.

We’re excited about what God is going to do in your family!



OVERCOMER

Who Are You?

Invite each member of your family to name at least five things that describe who they are. These could be hobbies, titles, jobs, character traits, or anything else that marks a personal interest. (For example: student, football player, dancer, dreamer, artist, boss, girlfriend/boyfriend, teacher, mom, dad, etc.)

Do your activities, sports, and hobbies influence how you think about yourself? How so?

Most of the identifiers your family listed are likely positive attributes or roles. Some may even reflect God's calling, making our simple descriptions of who and what we are acts of obedience. If so, bravo! There's a balance between following God's will and choosing our own adventure. Yet most of what we identify about ourselves tends to be self-defined and self-designated.

TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR TEENS:

Hannah answered the question "Who are you?" twice in the film, the first time with "I don't know." At what point did Hannah begin to see herself the way God sees her? How did that change her answer the second time?

Have you ever had an experience that led you to see yourself the way God sees you?

What part of the principal's conversation with Hannah stood out most to you? Why?

What was Hannah's reaction to becoming a child of God? (See Psalm 139:14: "I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made." CSB)

How do we see ourselves differently when we realize that God created each of us in His likeness so that we could be a part of His plan?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10:

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ² in which you previously lived according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. ³ We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! ⁶ He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — ⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do. (CSB)

How did Hannah define herself after she received Jesus?

Does knowing that you are God's workmanship change the way you might describe who you are? If so, how?

TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR YOUNGER KIDS:

How does the Bible define us before being saved? (dead in trespasses and sin; see Ephesians 2:1)

How does the Bible define us after being saved? (alive with Christ)

What does verse 8 say about how we are saved? (by grace through faith)

What are we created for? (good works)

Read Psalm 139:14:

I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. (CSB)

How does this verse describe how God made you? (remarkably and wondrously)

In what ways are you “remarkably and wondrously made?”

Knowing God “remarkably and wondrously” made you, what should your response be to God?

WRAP IT UP

Being chosen and defined by God changes everything. In the film, hearing the gospel and believing the good news her principal shared with her pulled Hannah out of the shadows and gave her a purpose far beyond her physical limitations. Only Jesus has the power to change a person's identity and to give purpose in life beyond all limitations and expectations.

Some kids and teens don't realize just how simple it is to make the decision to follow Jesus. Be sure and offer the opportunity to lead your children in a prayer to receive Christ.

Lord Jesus,

I am a sinner and I need a Savior. I believe that you are that Savior. So today, I place faith alone, in Christ alone, to forgive my sins. Come live in me.

*In Jesus' Name,
Amen.*

Throughout the week

Keep the conversation going this week. Share the following devotions with your teenager, or if you have younger kids talk through each devotion together as a family.

DAY 1: IN GOD'S IMAGE

Write a list of some of the physical attributes that make you unique (eye color, hair color, height, etc.).

Now write a list of some personality traits that make you unique from other people.

You are uniquely designed. No one has the exact same eyes or hair or fingerprints. And like these unique traits, God's Word remains the same, but each person hears and applies it in specific ways at different seasons in their lives. Your DNA, the shape of your ears, the pattern in the iris of your eyes, the combination of your physical features, and the stride of your walk, are all unique to you as an individual. You're skillfully and wonderfully made—one of a kind. But the common bond we all share as human beings is that we're created in the image of God.

Look at the natural world around you. God's fingerprints are all over it:

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.*

² *Day after day they pour out speech;
night after night they communicate knowledge.*

³ *There is no speech; there are no words;
their voice is not heard.*

⁴ *Their message has gone out to the whole earth,
and their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun.*

⁵ *It is like a bridegroom coming from his home;
it rejoices like an athlete running a course.*

PSALM 19:1-5

How does knowing and being reminded that you were created in God's image shape your identity?

How can you praise God for creating you uniquely in His image?

DAY 2: BROKEN

Has someone ever told you to “follow your heart”? Maybe you’ve even said it. It sounds great. It almost sounds spiritual. Well-meaning Christians occasionally offer this advice. We all tend to believe it. But there’s a problem: your heart.

In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve knew the truth. They knew the fruit of every other tree was beautiful, delicious, and free to enjoy. The problem wasn’t ignorance. It was selfishness. They had no reason to doubt God’s command. So they were tempted to doubt His character. They wondered whether God was unfairly keeping something desirable from them. They wanted what would literally kill them.

Sin has infected the hearts of every child born since that day. The entire human race has inherited this shared family trait. But before you claim it’s not your fault that you were born with a sinful heart, look at what God’s Word has to say.

Read James 1:13-17:

No one undergoing a trial should say, “I am being tempted by God,” since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn’t tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. ¹⁵ Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (CSB)

Before Hannah understood her identity in Christ, she made sinful choices by stealing from others and lying to her grandmother. Because she was born into difficult circumstances, we might tend to sympathize and make excuses for her actions. But ultimately, the problem wasn’t her circumstances; it was her heart.

Every person has the same problem. Every person has the same choice. It’s your turn right now. Will you make excuses and pass the blame? Will you continue to let your heart be tempted by things you know aren’t good for you? Or will you, like Hannah, turn from sin and embrace your identity in Christ?

The reality is that you’re sinful by nature and by choice, but it’s also true that God is gracious and good. Unlike the fickle desires of your heart, He never changes.

Conclude your study in prayer, being completely honest with God. Allow yourself to feel the foolishness of trusting your own desires rather than the wisdom of your Creator, the giver of “every good and perfect gift.”

DAY 3: IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

In the film **OVERCOMER** the gospel of Jesus gave John Harrison a purpose beyond who or what he thought he was. When everything he had built his identity on was ripped away and replaced by something less than ideal, the gospel entered and gave him more than he ever knew he wanted. The gospel pulled Hannah out of the shadows and gave her a purpose far beyond her physical limitations. The gospel of Jesus has the power to change a person's identity and to give purpose in life beyond all limitations and expectations.

How clearly do you understand God's purpose for your life?



Your identity in Christ makes you God's child, enjoying all of the rights and blessings of sonship. Your purpose in life makes you God's servant, dedicating your life to following His will.

Read Paul's testimony in Acts 22:3-16:

"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the law of our ancestors. I was zealous for God, just as all of you are today. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, arresting and putting both men and women in jail, ⁵ as both the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. After I received letters from them to the brothers, I traveled to Damascus to arrest those who were there and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ "As I was traveling and approaching Damascus, about noon an intense light from heaven suddenly flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' "

⁸ "I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' "

"He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one you are persecuting.' ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light, but they did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

¹⁰ "I said, 'What should I do, Lord?' "

"The Lord told me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told everything that you have been assigned to do.'

¹¹ "Since I couldn't see because of the brightness of the light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and went into Damascus. ¹² Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, who had a good reputation with all the Jews living there, ¹³ came and stood by me and said, 'Brother Saul, regain your sight.' And in that very hour I looked up and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, 'The God of our ancestors has appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the words from

his mouth, ¹⁵ since you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now, why are you delaying? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.' (CSB)

Where did Paul place his identity before meeting Christ?

How did his encounter with Christ change his identity? What new purpose did Paul now have?

For some people, a life-changing experience will be exactly how God reaches them. For others, life before Christ wasn't as dramatically distant and didn't require that level of encounter. No matter what type of testimony you have, change is part of it. Paul himself wrote: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, CSB).

What are some before-and-after changes the gospel has made and is continuing to make in your identity and your purpose?

How is God continuing to change your thoughts and actions to be more like Jesus?

Post and reread 2 Corinthians 5:17 several times throughout the week. Use it as a reminder of the power of the gospel to change your life. Pray that God will keep your newness in Christ fresh this week. Pray that God will plant this verse in your life and that He will shape your identity to reflect its truth.



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In
Theaters
August 23!



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This five-session small group Bible study uses clips from the film *OVERCOMER* to examine how we determine our identity and how we can find our true identity in Christ.

Learn more about this Bible study at lifeway.com/overcomerbiblestudy and more about the *OVERCOMER* movie and products at lifeway.com/overcomer.

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