

# INVINCIBLE JOY

*SMALL GROUP STUDY*

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## LEADER'S DISCUSSION GUIDE

Welcome to the *Invincible Joy* small group course!

This guide is designed to help you lead your small group, Sunday school class, or other group through the six-week video course that accompanies the book *Invincible Joy* by Oliver L. Asher.

Visit [oliverasher.com/courseleader](http://oliverasher.com/courseleader) for links to the video lessons and a pdf of this discussion guide.

*Invincible Joy* is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Bookshop.org.

Contact [hello@oliverasher.com](mailto:hello@oliverasher.com) if you have any questions or to invite Oliver to speak at your church.

Blessings on you and your group as you go through the course and book!

# WEEK 1: FROM HOPELESSNESS TO HOPE

*This week's reading: Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2*

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## **Opening Question**

Are you a person who tends to focus on the past or look forward to the future?

## **Video**

Intro: Today we'll hear from Oliver about looking back at our past, looking forward, and living a life of hope.

Watch Video 1.

## **Discussion**

Oliver quotes the exhortation from James to "count it all joy." How do you (or how can you) put that into practice?

Is there a difference between optimism and hope? If so, how would you distinguish between them?

Read Zechariah 4:10.

Talk about a time in your life when something started small or started poorly.

What are some practical steps you take to avoid focusing on the small starts, setbacks, and failures that have come before? How can you set your mind on what God is doing in your life on a daily basis?

What's something else from the video or the book stood out to you?

## **Closing Challenge**

This lesson closes with the challenge to not focus on the beginning but instead focus on what you can do today to finish well. Think of an obstacle you are facing right now or in the week ahead. What practical step (even if it's a small one) can you take to move toward overcoming that obstacle?

## **Pray**

Pray together as a group for the next steps you plan to take this week.

# WEEK 2: INVINCIBLE JOY

*This Week's Reading: Chapters 3 & 4*

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## **Opening Question**

Tell us about someone who has been a major positive influence in your life.

## **Video**

Intro: This week, we'll hear from Oliver about the importance of strong foundations of faith and Invincible Joy. Those foundations are often shaped by influential people and experiences in our lives.

Watch Video 2.

## **Discussion**

From what you have read and heard so far, how would you summarize what Invincible Joy is? Where does it come from?

It's important to look back at moments in your life in which God has shown himself to be dependable and steadfast in His love for you. What are some of those moments that serve as foundations for you?

Read Romans 8:18–39.

Which part of this passage is most encouraging to you?

What do we learn about Invincible Joy from this passage?

What's something else from the video or the book that stood out to you?

## **Closing Challenge**

Last week, our challenge was to take a practical step toward overcoming a challenge. How did that go?

As Christians, it's important to share our testimonies with one another for encouragement and inspiration. This week, ask another believer to share about a time God showed himself to be dependable in His love for you. Share your own story with that person.

## **Pray**

Pray together as a group for the next steps you plan to take this week.

# WEEK 3: DREAMING GOD-SIZED DREAMS

*This Week's Reading: Chapters 5 & 6*

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## **Opening Question**

Share about one of your dreams or ambitions from earlier in your life.

## **Video**

Intro: In this week's video, Oliver talks about dreams and desires and the role they play in our lives as believers.

Watch Video 3.

## **Discussion**

What is the purpose of the dreams God gives us? Is there a dream that you are still pursuing or waiting on the fulfillment of?

Is there a dream that seems to have reached the end of its life? How do you know?

Read Genesis 12:1–3 and Hebrews 11:8–10.

What dream did God give to Abraham? How did it work out for Abraham? For others?

Oliver quotes Mark Batterson about the size of your dreams: “Show me the size of your dream, and I’ll show you the size of your God,” and “If your dream doesn’t scare you, it’s too small.” What do you think about what he said?

What’s something else from the video or the book that stood out to you?

## **Closing Challenge**

Last week, your challenge was to ask another Christian to share a story of God showing up for them, and for you to share your own story. What did you learn?

Oliver’s challenge at the end of this lesson is to ask yourself, “What dream seeds has the Father put within you, and are you pursuing those God-sized dreams for His glory and for His honor?” This week, write down 1–3 dreams that God has given you that don’t seem to be fulfilled yet. Consider how can you take the next step in pursuing at least one of those dreams.

## **Pray**

Pray together as a group for the next steps you plan to take this week.

# WEEK 4: SETBACKS WILL HAPPEN

*This Week's Reading: Chapters 7 & 8*

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## **Opening Question**

Tell about something that didn't go how you planned but turned out better than you expected.

## **Video**

Intro: In this week's lesson, Oliver talks about setbacks, struggles, and keeping a joy-filled perspective through difficulties.

Watch Video 4.

## **Discussion**

Oliver says, "Setbacks are actually set-ups for God's divine intervention." What do you think about that? What setback have you experienced that God might be using as a set-up for something new?

What advice does Oliver offer for responding to setbacks? How have you practiced these principles or seen them lived out?

What advice do you need or want to apply more in your decision-making or response to setbacks?

Read Galatians 6:9–10.

How does this passage relate to joy?

Galatians 6:10 says "whenever you have opportunity." We usually feel like we have more opportunities than time, money, and energy. How do we reconcile Paul's teaching with our limitations?

What's something else from the video or the book that stood out to you?

## **Closing Challenge**

Last week, our challenge was to reflect on the dreams God has put in our hearts and think about the next step in pursuing one of those dreams for His glory. What did you learn?

This week's challenge is to take action. Is there a setback or a situation that has caused you to put off doing something? Ask God what to do next, and take action in faith.

## **Pray**

Pray together as a group for the next steps you plan to take this week.

# WEEK 5: WINNING THE DAY

*This Week's Reading: Chapters 9 & 10*

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## **Opening Question**

Share about a part of your daily routine that you can't do without.

## **Video**

Intro: In this week's video, Oliver talks about "winning the day" with daily habits and practices, especially spiritual habits that draw you closer to Jesus.

Watch Video 5.

## **Discussion**

What daily spiritual habits can you think of? Which ones are part of your own routine right now? Which ones are more difficult for you to practice?

How do your daily habits affect your sense of joy?

## **Read Ephesians 2:8-10.**

What is the result that God intends for our salvation?

How do grace and good works go together?

What is a time when you have recognized God preparing good works particularly for you? How does it feel when you fulfill one of these good works?

What's something else from the video or the book that stood out to you?

## **Closing Challenge**

Last week, our challenge was to take action on something we've been putting off or wondering about because of a setback. How did that go?

Your challenge this week is to choose one daily spiritual habit to start or re-start this week to help you win the day and become more like Jesus. Who can you share this with?

## **Pray**

Pray together as a group for the next steps you plan to take this week.

# WEEK 6: A LEGACY OF JOY

*This Week's Reading: Chapters 11 & 12, Final Word*

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## **Opening Question**

How would you describe the legacy you received from your family of origin (parents, grandparents, etc.)?

## **Video**

Intro: In this week's video, Oliver talks about the legacies we receive from our families and invites us to consider the legacies we are leaving for others.

Watch Video 6.

## **Discussion**

Is leaving a legacy something you've thought about before? What does it mean to you to leave a legacy?

What are the two kinds of legacy that Oliver talks about in the video?

Read 2 Timothy 1:5.

Tell us about someone who introduced you to Jesus or helped you grow in your faith. What was it about their character, words, or way of living that made an impact on your life?

Who would you say is in your circle of influence today, to whom you could leave a legacy of invincible joy and faith in Jesus?

What's something else from the video or the book that stood out to you?

## **Closing Challenge**

Last week, our challenge was to ask God to show us a good work He has prepared specifically for us. How did that go?

Set aside a little time this week — whether 30 minutes or an entire morning — to consider your legacy. Try to identify at least three specific ways you want to influence those around you. Another way to think about it is three specific ways you would want others to follow your example. Write down what you decide, and keep it somewhere you will see it.

## **Pray**

Pray together as a group for the next steps you plan to take this week.