

# Movie Review: Overcomer

Studies say 4-year-old children ask about 300–400 questions per day. Mothers ask about 100. An average person asks about 20. It's interesting how curious humans are, we get so worked up about everyday things that we seem to lose sight of what truly matters. In all our inquiring, how often do we ask ourselves the important questions? Who are you (how do you introduce yourself to people)? Where do you base your identity (what fundamentally defines you)? Race? Family? Your job? Accomplishments maybe? Talents and interests? Shortcomings?

When a local manufacturing plant closes, life changes drastically for the affected community: nearly 6,000 people lose their jobs and move away. In a matter of months, John Harrison loses half the members of his basketball team, and he begins to ponder this very question: Who am I? Strip away his roles as a basketball coach, a father, and a husband and what's left? It isn't until John literally stumbles across Thomas, a blind man dying from diabetes, that he starts to realize just how far down the list he places God. He realizes that his identity will be whatever he ties his heart to and lately other – trivial – things have taken precedence in his heart.

In addition to doling out spiritual guidance, Thomas begins giving him training tips, too, after John gets reassigned to coach the cross-country team (Thomas was a cross-country champion himself in his day). The twist is that it's no team at all, it's just one girl who struggles with asthma – 15-year-old Hannah Scott. Her parents passed away when she was a baby, and now she lives with her grandmother, Barbara who is devoted to taking care of Hannah, but often unavoidably absent.

For John, going from coaching basketball to cross country feels like a demotion, since he doesn't consider it to be a sport. For Hannah, running is the only thing she's ever been good at. It's undoubtedly a comical combination but John begins to realize the impact he can have in his coaching relationship with Hannah. Despite her asthma and tough background, Hannah progressively gets faster. With Thomas' help, John begins to coach Hannah in earnest in her quest for a state cross-country championship. Along the way, they discover who they are in Christ, among other things.

## Key Takeaways

- Something or someone will always be first in your heart, but when you find your identity in the One who created you, it changes your perspective on everything.
- We may face physical, spiritual, relational and emotional barriers preventing us from accomplishing our goals and moving toward spiritual maturity. Be reminded that the Creator gets to define His creation and in Him, we are overcomers. (1 John 5:5)
- Our identity isn't based on our jobs or roles, our talents or passions, no matter how important those things might seem. Instead, who we are at the deepest level flows from our relationship with our Savior, whose love and grace shape our true identity as His children.