



## **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

What would be very difficult for you to give up, something that if you were asked to sacrifice, you're not sure you could?

## **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week? How did it go?

- I will live as an image-bearer of God.
- I will allow God to define my identity in Christ.
- I will recognize and reject false beliefs about my identity.
- I believe I am loved by God.
- I believe I have significance in God's purpose for my life.
- I am confident that I belong to God.

## **MESSAGE SUMMARY**

Surrender, in its simplest form, means to give up. The Bible is full of stories about people who've conceded and submitted, surrendered, and yielded to God's will.

Sometimes things happen that you don't think you could bear, something that you don't understand. Maybe it's a situation you've been living with for a long time, or even something that happened suddenly and caught you by surprise. When these things happen, our minds try to control everything that's happening around us. Or there comes a time where we can't keep fighting, either because it's painful or we know it's pointless.

These are the moments where surrender can begin. When we make a genuine decision to follow and obey God, we leave it all on the table, holding nothing back. What would happen if we give ourselves to God with no strings attached? What's holding you back from total surrender?

Surrender sets us free. One thing God wants from each one of us is that we take our lives one day at a time, and in each day, that we accomplish to the best of our abilities what He wants us to achieve for the day. Surrendering to God aligns your desires with God desires and a willingness to follow Him as He guides you in your life.

## KEY STATEMENT FOR THE WEEK

- I dedicate my life to God's purposes.

## KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Scripture memorization is a valuable spiritual practice in a Christ-centered life. Spend a few minutes each day committing this verse to memory.

- "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1-2

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you first think of when you hear the word "surrender?"
2. Imagine you're in Mary's shoes as the angel says you will bear a child, the Son of God. The first part of her response was, "I am the Lord's servant" Why do you think she began her reply with these words? What does this show you about Mary's attitude?
3. Mary finishes with these words: "Be it done unto me as you say." What do you think she knew about God that allowed her to respond with such a complete heart of surrender?
4. What fears might people have about fully surrendering every aspect of their lives to Jesus? What fears have you experienced in relation to full surrender?
5. Read Judges 7. Have you ever felt that God was asking something of you that seemed unreasonable? If so, share why and what you decided to do.
6. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. In many ways, surrender is an act of trust. What do you know about the heart of God that should make it easier to trust Him?
7. Take 2-3 minutes and share your surrender story with the group.

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will surrender to God and His plan for my life.
- I will trust God even when I don't understand His plan for me.
- I will align my wants with what God wants for me.
- I will pray for God's wisdom.
- I will be open and seek wise counsel.

## PRAYER

Prayer as a spiritual practice is our conversational life with God, where He hears from us and we hear from Him, with the intent of learning and leaning into His will for our lives. Let this prayer guide you over the next week.

Heavenly Father,

I will trust in You even though I don't understand Your plans for my life. I desire to be "all in" so I can fulfill Your purpose. I trust that You will direct my path and believe that You are always working to accomplish good in me. I repent of the times I have been running away from Your will. Open my eyes to see the things in my life that I need to sacrifice in order to completely surrender to You. I bow before You and confess "I am the Lord's servant, may it be done to me according to Your Word." I pray in the name of Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Luke 1:28-35
- Luke 1:38
- Judges 7
- Joshua 24:15
- James 4:13-15
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- James 1:5
- Proverbs 19:20-21
- Jonah
- Philippians 2:10-11

## SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

The following are suggested resources if you would like to continue your study of this topic.

- [Humility and Absolute Surrender](#)
- [Joyful Surrender](#)
- [Desiring God](#)
- [Living The Surrendered Life \(21 Day Devotional\)](#)