

Practice/Do: Total Surrender

This group study is designed to coincide with the month's sermon. You may customize the study to fit your meetings. (four-week study, bi-weekly, monthly etc.) All studies include a video which is the first segment to each study.

MASTER KEYS

Key Verse: 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. Roman 12:1

Key Question: How do I cultivate a life of sacrificial service?

Key Idea: I dedicate my life to God's purposes?

VIDEO TEACHING

As you watch the video for this session, use the following outline to record some of the main points.

1. Key Question: Jesus is looking for a faith" from his followers.
2. "Whoever wants to be my disciple must themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)
3. Key Idea: I my life to God's purposes.
4. Key Question: How do I cultivate a life of
5. Every time one of Jesus' disciples was martyred or punished, it only the movement of Christ.
6. Key Verse: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship, (Romans 12:1)
7. (Key Application) Constantly remember the Jesus made for you.
8. (Key Application) that you are in a no-lose situation.

SELF EVALUATION/GROUP DISCUSSION

Evaluate individually or discuss with a group your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging and why?

- I am living out God's purposes for my life.
- I give up what I want to meet the needs of others.
- I give away things I possess when I am so led by God.
- I serve God through my daily work.

1. The apostle Peter learned that total surrender is easier said than done. In what ways can you relate to his story?

2. Discuss what it takes (mentally, spiritually, emotionally) to be a person who is completely surrendered to God's purposes.

3. As ambassadors of Christ, discuss how acts of sacrifice and surrender can reflect the love of God to people in our daily lives.

4. Not everyone is called to vocational ministry. So, what does total surrender look like for a school teacher, plumber, artist, business owner, or you?

BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

The decision to dedicate our lives to God's purposes is a daily practice. Jesus instructed his disciples to take up their cross daily and follow him. God expects this kind of dedication from us as well. Part of this dedication includes being a "living sacrifice," which requires a daily decision to crawl up on the altar.

Thankfully, we can find inspiration from the stories of many courageous and faithful followers of God, including Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Esther,

Stephen and Paul. We can also find comfort from the life of Peter, who denied Jesus three times in some of the most critical moments of Jesus' life. Because of the unconditional love he had for him, Jesus restored Peter, and he will do the same for us!

Read Daniel 3:1-28

1. Although the world we live in is drastically different, in what ways can you relate to Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego?

2. What qualities or virtues, if any, do you see in them that you would like to possess?

3. In this story and many others found in the Bible, people make bold decisions in order to fulfill God's purposes. Discuss the origins of boldness. In other words, where does boldness come from? Is it a personality trait? Is it generated through will power? Is it given by God? Or is it developed overtime?

4. Read Acts 7:54-60 and Daniel 3:16-28 Compare and contrast Stephen's story with the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Compare Stephen's death to the death of Christ. Which detail of each story best exemplifies total surrender.

5. What did Jesus mean when he instructed his disciples to take up their cross daily? Why does Jesus say this is a wise decision to make?

DEVOTIONAL

The problem with living sacrifices is they keep trying to crawl off the altar. Surrendering to someone else's will brings about tremendous fear, even when it is God's will.

What will he ask you to do? Stay in a tumultuous relationship or marriage for the good of the other person? Walk away from a relationship that is not honoring or pleasing to him? Watch your spouse or child head overseas to serve their country? Move your family halfway across the country for a new job?

Fear associated with surrendering to uncertainty can cause a living sacrifice to wiggle right off the altar and try to take back control. Sometimes you can't even muster the courage to get on there in the first place!

When you are tempted to wiggle off the altar, God asks you to stay on it, rely on his mercy and grace to get you through, and believe his promise that he is working out all things for your ultimate good.

"I DEDICATE MY LIFE TO GOD'S PURPOSES"

TAKE ACTION

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise.
Memorize the key scripture.

Read this week's key idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself "Does my life reflect the Key Idea statement?" What, if any, actions do I need to take?

Answer the following questions to help you apply this week's Key Idea to your own life.

How would this practice express itself in your life?

What visible attributes can be found in someone who is totally surrendered to God?

What is impeding your ability to fully submit your life to God's purposes? How can you overcome this obstacle?

What action step can you take this week to move closer to a life that is entirely surrendered to God?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's key idea into practice.

Duncan's job requires him to travel out of town two or three times a month. For the first time in his life, he is able to put money in the bank rather than live paycheck to paycheck. Unfortunately, his coworkers and supervisor use these out-of-town trips to feed their wild sides and entertain potential clients Duncan feels stuck. He knows that the activities on these trips are not pleasing to God, but refusing to participate will most likely cost him his job.

Using the Key applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Duncan? (If needed refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's key applications)

PRAYER WRITING:

You have been pointed to the truths of what it means to think, be and act like Jesus as it relates to Total Surrender. But it's prayer that will empower you to become all that you were created to be. Whatever you would say or think in a conversation with the Lord at this time write it here.

cannonball / deny / dedicate / sacrifice / fueled / offer / sacrifice / Remember