

S u r r e n d e r

A L I F E P O U R E D O U T

This is copyrighted material provided as a printable
resource for the SURRENDER Bible study.

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

This is a resource to help you break the study into sections for small group discussion. Surrender is meant to be very personal and reflective, but it is always helpful to share our growth and struggles in community.

Outline

Discussion #1 - Chapters 1 & 2
Discussion #2 - Chapters 3 & 4
Discussion #3 - Chapter 5
Discussion #4 - Chapters 6 & 7
Discussion #5 - Chapters 8 & 9
Discussion #6 - Chapters 10 & 11
Discussion #7 - Chapters 12 & 13
Discussion #8 - Chapters 14 - 16
Discussion #9 - Chapter 17 & 18
Discussion #10 - Chapter 19 and Worship

Basic Format

Participants will read the chapters on their own before the meeting.

1. Begin with prayer requests and praises.
2. Pray over each other and the requests. Give thanks for the praises.
3. Testimony - Open the floor for testimony from the week. These can be related to the study or anything else.
4. Discussion - Questions and topics are provided for each discussion time, but allow the Spirit to lead as each person shares their personal revelation and experience with the study.
5. Pray.

Discussion # 1

Chapters 1 and 2

Get to know each other, as appropriate.

Why did you decide to read this book? join this study?

What do you hope to learn? accomplish?

What apprehensions do you have?

Read through the names of the chapters. Share thoughts on what's ahead.

Chapter 1 - "All"

Discuss the tradition of the Shema.

Discuss the good and bad of rituals. What are the good things we can learn and take away from this daily recitation?

Review the original Hebrew for *listen, heart, soul, and strength*.

Did this background for the translations help you better understand Matthew 22:37?

Chapter 2 - "The First"

What sets salvation apart from the rest of our surrender?

Open the floor for salvation testimonies.

What makes sharing your testimony with others easy/challenging?

Read Acts 8:26-40.

Talk about the obedience and excitement of the Ethiopian.

Talk about the obedience of Philip.

Do you believe it's possible for God to use you like He did Philip?

Surrender means we are giving our lives to God. We know that will mean change and sacrifice. Are you feeling ready for more surrender? What scares you about what God might ask of you?

Pray together.

Pray that God will use this study and your time together to bring you closer to Him.

Pray that He will help you with your commitment to the study and to each other. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be the guide and teacher so that each person will be lead into Truth and transformation.

Discussion # 2

Chapters 3 and 4

Chapter 3 – “The Freedom”

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. – John 8:36 NIV

Have you been experiencing freedom in your life as a Christian? How so? Why not? Jesus has fully and completely paid for our sin. Why do we still feel captive to it? Read Romans 6:16-18.

From Chapter 3:

Jesus has come to be Savior and Lord. In receiving salvation, you have given Him your life. Surrender is part of the deal. It's not separate from salvation; it's actually the only way to experience the salvation you've been given. But, this surrender is not a “white flag” to an enemy; it is running into Love; it is falling into open arms. This surrender removes the barrier that keeps you from God's blessing and purpose.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 says this freedom allows you to reflect the glory of the LORD. It frees you to be changed. You are free to fulfill your God-given purpose; free to fulfill God's calling on your life. Your freedom in Christ frees you to love, and serve, and speak the Gospel.

How does God's love and purpose for us help our surrender?

Review justification and sanctification.

Justification is a finished work, finished on the cross.

Sanctification is an ongoing work, transforming work of the Spirit.

Change – Look up and discuss these verses:

Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Timothy 1:9

Matthew 26:41

2 Timothy 2:20-21

How would you describe the promise of Jesus' yoke?

Freedom – Galatians 5:13 NLT *For you have been called to live in freedom – not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love.*

Does this verse change your perception of freedom?

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Chapter 4 – “Living Sacrifice”

Romans 12:1 NLT *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.*

How would you describe “living sacrifice”? What does that look like?

Has God been bringing to mind things you are not completely giving to Him?

Discuss the Warning: Do not declutter for open, clean space.

Read Luke 11:24-26.

How can we recognize behavior modification versus transformation from the Spirit?

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Pray together.

Pray for God to help you experience the freedom of His love, the freedom you have as His children. Ask God to help you find new freedom and purpose in serving others. Help the word *sacrifice* to take on new meaning and purpose in your lives. Pray for the Spirit to bring new transformation.

Discussion # 3

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 - "Sin"

One chapter, because it's the daily battle of everyone's life. We need to get serious about sin.

Read John 8:34-36.

You are freed by sin, so why is sin still an issue?

Flesh versus Spirit

Read:

Romans 7:15-20

Galatians 5:16-18

Do you feel this tug-of-war in your life?

Read Romans 10:9-10

Confessing Jesus as Lord over your life brings power over sin.

We often talk about how Jesus paid for our sin, but we also have daily power over the temptation and entrapment of sin.

How do we speak that power and authority?

Review the story of Achan.

Are you shocked by this story - and others like it?

Why do you think God held the whole nation accountable?

Why do you think we look at sin so differently than God?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6

Can you relate to how sin spreads like yeast?

Confession. Why is admitting the sin so important in our repentance?

Read James 4:6-10

Do you feel grieved by sin?

Do you feel your heart changing over time? Are there some sins that grieve you now that didn't really bother you in the past?

Discuss the phrase *Draw near*.

Read Hosea 6:1-3

Do you recognize the pattern of religion in this prayer?

Do you think we sometimes have the same tendency to repent this way?

What is different about Hosea's prayer in Chapter 14:2-3?

Thankfulness.

Read Ephesians 5:4.

Have you ever considered *thankfulness* as being a battle plan?

David's heart.

We read his psalms; his devotion to God inspires us; but we know the severity of his sins.

Discuss how real repentance is necessary for our surrender.

Pray together.

Use Psalm 51 in your prayer.

Discussion # 4

Chapters 6 and 7

Chapter 6 – “Control”

God is in control whether we “give” him control or not.
Why do we keep such a firm grip on the control of our lives?

Discuss *shallow* and *deep*.
What keeps us in the shallow?
Share testimonies of times you have stepped into the deep.

Read Isaiah 55:8-9.
Why do we act like we know as much as God? He knows and sees all.

Read Jeremiah 17:5-8.
What do you think of when you read that verse?
When have you experienced God sustain you in a drought?
How does His faithfulness in the past help you go deeper today?

Summarize and discuss Samuel’s story.
Discuss who you relate to in Samuel’s story.

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Chapter 7 – “Will”

Talk about Jesus’ unwavering submission to God’s will.

From Chapter 7:

Surrender is not a mixture. God’s will does not compete or blend with your plans. His sovereignty and Lordship are supposed to reign in your life.
Do you struggle with “mixing”? Do you try to add some of God’s plans to yours?

Psalm 37:4 NLT
Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you your heart’s desires.

What does it mean to *delight in the LORD*?
Why does that precede the promise that He will give you the desires of your heart?

God’s will. What’s the first part of God’s will for all us?
How do we find out more and discover God’s specific direction?

Discuss Peter’s life.
Talk about the stages of his surrender and understanding of God’s will.

How can you relate to Peter's story?

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Pray.

Pray that you will release control of your life. Pray that you will allow God's will to take over. Pray that you will get so close to Him that His desires become your own. Pray that God would give you a new excitement and strength to step into the deep. Pray for His will to be done.

Discussion # 5

Chapters 8 and 9

Chapter 8 - "Ownership"

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5

We claim ownership and deny God's ownership because of selfishness and greed.

From Chapter 8:

The owner decides what happens with all the resources. All the time is scheduled by the owner. All the money is controlled by the owner. All the skills and talents are directed by the owner. When people claim ownership, there is chaos and conflict in all directions.

What does it look like to consult God about your resources? How do we give Him control of these things?

Read Matthew 16:24-26.

What keeps us from surrendering ownership of our lives?

Discuss these areas. How do we see people believing these lies? How can we counter them with obedience?

- pride

God is our real Source for everything.

- temptation

2 Timothy 2:22

- sin nature

natural does not equal good; do not "follow your heart"

How does putting life into categories keep us from releasing all ownership?

Discuss Sabbath.

How should we honor the Sabbath in the New Covenant?

Define stewardship.

What does it mean to be a steward?

How does the concept of stewardship help you surrender?

What can we learn from Solomon's life?

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Chapter 9 - "Glory"

Read Psalm 19:1-4.

Why do we get so caught up in our little platforms and pedestals?

Why do we crave glory and attention?

Why do we give people so much glory and attention?

Are there things in life we should avoid, control, or eliminate so we don't get caught up in all the attention-seeking of our culture?

God has glory in

- His character – He is holy and nothing can compare to Him. His very nature is perfect.
- His power – Discuss Job's conversation with God.
- His victory – God has ultimate victory. Nothing can compete with Him. His Kingdom will reign forever.

You might not want to be famous, but are you overly concerned about the approval of others?

Do you need approval or attention to feel good about your work and efforts?

Our real purpose in life is God's glory.

How does realizing God's purpose for your life change your goals and plans?

Crowns.

Read Revelation 4:9-11.

How does this image change your perspective?

Discuss Paul's life and how he constantly pointed to Jesus.

What did he do to make sure he did not receive glory that should be the LORD's?

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Pray together.

Pray that you will have the strength and desire to give God control of all your resources. Pray that He will use all you have for His purposes, for His Kingdom. Pray that God will receive glory through your life and ministry. Pray that you will step down off of the pedestals, lay down the crowns, and lift His name up above all other names.

Discussion # 6

Chapters 10 and 11

Chapter 10 – “Identity”

Genesis 1:27 NIV *So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.*

in the image of God – How does that make you feel? What do you think that means?

When you consider that God created you, how does that change how you view yourself?

Who could understand your identity better than your Creator?

Fingerprints are only one cool fact about these amazing bodies. What other discoveries about us have amazed you?

People use lots of different things to identify us. And supposedly your “identity” can be stolen.

What do you often attach to your own identity? skills and talents, reputation, personality, beliefs

What do you use to describe yourself?

What kind of masks do you or others wear to hide behind?

From Chapter 10:

There must be something more to identity. People know they have one. You hear about people searching for it. People even try to fake one.

Where is Biblical identity then? Identity seems superficial, vague, and even illusive.

How are we supposed to surrender this mess?

How do you let go of something you’ve never held?

We get very distracted by the outward things. Our spirit is where God is giving us brand new life and identity.

Read and discuss the list of scriptures that talk about our real identity.

Zacchaeus. What encourages you about Zacchaeus’ story?

What does Jesus’ interaction with Zacchaeus teach us about how we should be seeing others?

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Chapter 11 – “Family”

Jesus cuts deep in Luke 14:26 (NLT)

If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else – your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.

From Chapter 11:

His point is about priorities and lordship. Nothing can come between us and our relationship and obedience to Christ. You might agree with this in theory. You can see what Jesus is saying about importance, but you need to be cautious and intentional about actually living it out. Priorities are not concepts; priorities are revealed in actions. You have to honestly evaluate what guides and directs your life. Does God have the freedom to override your plans, even when it will (adversely) affect your family?

Does God have more say than your spouse? children? parents?

Does God really have the freedom in your life to interrupt your relationships?

What makes this so hard?

How can our trust in Him help with surrendering our family?

Read and discuss Joshua 25:14-15.

Try to imagine Joshua on that day, after all he had seen and done. Imagine what stirred his heart to say these things as he addressed the nation of Israel.

Think of how easily we post that verse.

Are you ready to surrender in the same way that Joshua did?

Discuss Abraham’s story. What did God call him to surrender in his lifetime?

Abraham was called to an extreme sacrifice.

How does God’s gift of Jesus change the way you see that story?

How does it change the way you feel about your own surrender?

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Pray together. Pray over your minds and hearts. Pray over the way you see yourselves. Pray that God will strip away the things that speak lies about your identity. Pray that you will seek Truth and speak Truth to others. Pray over each family represented. Pray that you will surrender your family, lift them up to Him, and allow Him to be the Protector and Leader of your home. Pray for the realities of the sacrifice of Jesus to help you release everything to the LORD.

Discussion # 7

Chapters 12 and 13

Think back over all the topics of surrender that have been covered.
What have been the hardest to apply?

Chapter 12 – “Resistance”

From the chapter:

Stop now and remember that there is a battle for your heart, mind, and soul.
You will struggle against your own flesh daily. Every choice you make over time, resources, and talents will include a selfish urge. Laziness will weigh you down. Distractions will shuffle your priorities. The lure of pleasure will lure you to find fulfillment in other things.

Idolatry.

Your own little throne in place of God’s.

You will have to be fierce and determined.

Surrender is not a weak release. It’s a bold resolve, gathering all your strength and will. Purpose your life and actions to serve Jesus.

Resist yourself.

And resist the enemy.

Two things will come against your efforts to love Jesus: yourself and the devil.
Even some who believe this is true, live like it might not happen to them.
What happens if we don’t prepare for this? Is anyone exempt?

Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

Many scriptures talk about spiritual warfare, but this passage gives us a lot of specifics about how God helps us in this fight.

Discuss each one and how Jesus is those things for us.

The shortcut to spiritual warfare is Jesus. In the moment, when you don’t know what to do, just put on Jesus. Speak His name. He is your armor.

What are some tactics of the enemy we need to prepare for?

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Chapter 13 – “The Discipline of Devotion”

Read Titus 2:12.

Discuss the combination of discipline and devotion.

Read Romans 12:2.

Have you ever thought about how easily we get caught up in patterns?
How do we recognize the patterns of this world?
Our minds need to be transformed.

Read Exodus 33:7-11
Moses and his tent. Try to picture it.
Picture all the people watching.
Have you felt more like Moses or a spectator lately?

What keeps us from setting up a tent?
Share a time when you felt “the glow” of God’s presence yourself or could see it on another person.

Discuss how we can have intimacy and awe in our time with the LORD.

Invite the group to share answers or notes they wrote in this chapter.

Pray together. Pray that you will put on the armor. That you will be prepared for battle and stand against every scheme of the devil. Pray you will have a renewed devotion that will strengthen your commitment to spend time with God. Pray that your minds will be transformed and you will see and resist the patterns of this world.

Discussion # 8

Chapters 14 - 16

Chapter 14 - "Surrender in Worship"

Worship is living a life of surrender.

Worship is not just a piece of a devotion time, but it's devoting your whole life to Him.

Worship does play a significant role in our devotion time, though.

Have you been including praise in your personal devotion time or mostly waiting for corporate worship?

What are some practical ways you plan to or have included praise in your devotion time?

What are some common idols around us?

Read Habakkuk 2:18-20.

Doesn't this make everything else seem so foolish next to God?

Why do we get distracted by these other things?

1 John 5:21 NLT

Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

Read Romans 1:21-26.

From Chapter 14:

All of your thoughts, desires, and actions flow out of your worship. Worship calibrates you to what is important. It sets your mind. You have to be careful and intentional about your worship, because skewing your worship is the ultimate goal of the devil, and it is the downfall of your own nature. Your instinct is to lift yourself up, and you are swayed and lured by all kinds of notions around you. Acknowledge this battle, so you can fight it.

Discuss the shift that happens when we are not worshipping God.

worship – thoughts – desires – actions

It's gradual, so we create justification as it progresses.

Read Acts 16:22-28

Worship brought freedom to Paul and Silas.

Read Revelation 1:9-11

Worship brought revelation to John.

Share any worship songs that you have been singing lately.

Chapter 15 – “Surrender in Prayer”

From the chapter:

Worship and prayer are so deeply joined. Worship names God as the One sitting on the Throne. Prayer is entering the Throne room and speaking to the One we adore. This is a privilege given to us by the redeeming work of Jesus. The center of the Bible is the beautiful book of Psalms with page after page of hearts pouring prayer and praise out to God. The very act of prayer is a move of surrender, and it's the place where you seek the forgiveness, guidance, and help you need for a life given to God.

Read Matthew 6:5-15.

What are some things we can learn from the prayer Jesus taught us?

Discuss the power of prayer.

Talk about the relationship between God's will and our requests.

How have you experienced the power of prayer in your life?

Why do we need to be desperate in our prayers? *Desperate* is not a description we would normally want.

Do you think of prayer as time in spiritual warfare?

When you have problems, do you just complain or do you fight in prayer?

Do you take time to listen in your prayer time? What are some strategies that might make that easier?

Do you pray when you lose an ax?

Were you surprised that one of the Bible's miracles helped a guy find a lost tool?

Does this change your perspective on prayer?

Chapter 16 – “Surrender in Study”

Read Exodus 16

What do you think was the hardest part about eating manna every day?

God want us to have that kind of dependence.

Have you ever experienced your time in the Word providing what you needed in a situation?

Study is the best way to start and extend your listening. God speaks to us primarily through His Word.

Have you experienced help from the Holy Spirit during your study?

Read and discuss:

Hebrews 4:12 -Scripture is alive.

Psalms 119:105 - Scripture guides us.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - Scripture corrects us. Remember to apply it, or you might walk around with "spinach in your teeth".

Ephesians 6:17 - Scripture is the sword of the Spirit, our only offensive weapon.

Read Acts 26:24.

This verse is kind of funny, but it's so true. Have you ever felt so changed by the Word, that you feel a little crazy? Have you known someone who did?

Real transformation will make you act different than others around you. You will not fall into the patterns we talked about.

Worship, prayer, and study are essential to the discipline of devotion.

Are you ready for an action plan to make it happen (or enhance the time you already have)?

Pray together. Pray that God will stir in your hearts the desire to worship, pray, and study. Pray for help with the discipline. Pray against the enemy. Pray that God will bless your efforts as you strive to obey.

Discussion # 9

Chapters 17 and 18

Chapter 17 - "Action Plan"

It's time to make it happen.

Remember, devotion needs discipline so that we can stay on course.

What tools are you choosing for your daily devotion?

Have you made plans for your tent?

What obstacles do you think will try to derail you from your progress?

How can you plan for those?

Encourage and admonish each other in your efforts. Sometimes the "grass seems greener" for other people, but in reality this is a challenge for everyone. No matter what kind of jobs, responsibilities, or schedules a person has, there will be a physical and spiritual battle over this devoted time.

Help each other.

Chapter 18 - "The Joy"

This chapter is about God refining us through trials and correction, but the title reminds us of the joy.

Read Hebrews 12:5-6

If God is disciplining the ones He loves, then you want it. Choose joy.

Read James Chapter 1.

Study of the word *test* reveals that James used that word with great intention.

How does the analogy of the silversmith heighten your awareness of God's work in your life?

Are you willing to endure the heat for the goal of reflection?

Imagine God's face when He sees himself in you.

Discuss the sorrow of the people in Nehemiah 8.

Imagine the scene, where a whole nation hears the Law after it had been neglected so long.

What can lift you out of that sorrow? We know that pain, the pain of failing our LORD. This is where Nehemiah speaks of joy.

Have you ever thought about what it means for the joy of the LORD to be your strength?

Jesus also explains that His Word is supposed to bring us to that joy.

From Chapter 18:

Jesus is urging us to choose joy, to be fueled and empowered by it. He says joy is the reason He taught and revealed so many things to us. He told us about the power, the promises, and the purpose God has for us. Jesus knew that if you obeyed His command to give it all, you would be filled with joy.
Have you felt that joy as you read the Word of God?

Have you felt the power of joy sustain you in tough times?

Have you felt joy in your surrender?

Rejoice is the verb for our joy.
Remember joy is different than happiness, so rejoicing is not necessarily an action of dancing and excitement. It's expressing and sharing the joy of the LORD, something that can be felt regardless of circumstance.

Read Romans 5:1-11.
Why do we not see more rejoicing from Christians?
Do you rejoice?
What are some ways to rejoice?

Pray together. Pray for God to bless your action plans. Pray for God to help you follow through with your plan. Pray for the joy God gives to prove stronger than the trials you face. Pray for the joy to become rejoicing in your lives.

Discussion # 10

Chapter 19 and Worship

Chapter 19 - "Your Jar"

Matthew 26:13 NLT - *I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed.*"

Think about this statement Jesus made about the woman who anoints Him. Jesus saw and experienced many things, but this highlights her actions in a special way.

Picture Jesus – covered in oil, a great commotion, lots of emotions.

Imagine His emotion and expression as He speaks these words.

Have you truly surrendered with this kind of abandon?

What things hold you (and others) back from this kind of worship?

Luke 7:47 NLT - *I tell you, her sins – and they are many – have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.*

Jesus gives us a clue in this verse.

Forgiveness, gratitude, humility

Knowing we have been forgiven so much leads us into a true worship and surrender.

The enemy does not want us to be honest in these things. What are the things and tactics that distract us?

How can we encourage each other to live with humility and gratitude?

Ask the group to share their current favorite worship songs.

Worship Him together.