

OUR RESPONSE TO THE INDESCRIBABLE MAN

The Power of a Surrendered Life

Philippians 2:12-18 | Participant Guide

Key Idea

Surrender to Jesus is not the loss of life - it is the doorway to new life. As we surrender to the Lordship of Christ, God works within us, transforming our obedience, our desires, our attitudes, and the way we live. Fully surrendered. Fully alive.

Key Scripture

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." - Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

Opening Conversation

1. What is something you once resisted giving up or letting go of, but later realized surrendering it was actually good for you?

Read Together - Philippians 2:12-18

Listen for what God does in us and what begins to change in a life surrendered to Jesus.

1. Obedience Born Out of a New Relationship

2. Philippians 2:12 begins with "Therefore." Looking back at verses 9-11, why is surrender the appropriate response to the lordship of Jesus?
3. Paul says to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling." What is the difference between working for salvation and working out the salvation God has already given us?
4. Jesus connects friendship with obedience in John 15:12-15. How is obedience that grows out of knowing, trusting, and loving Jesus different from simply following religious rules?

2. Power From a New Source

"This isn't self-improvement; it's new life."

5. Philippians 2:13 says that God works in us "to will and to act." What does this tell us about the source of our power to live a transformed life?
6. Where are you most tempted to rely on your own strength instead of allowing Christ to live and work through you?

3. New Attitudes Born Out of a New Heart

7. Why do you think Paul moves from the supernatural work of God in verse 13 to something as ordinary as grumbling and arguing in verse 14?
8. What can our attitudes reveal about what is happening in our hearts? Where might God be asking you to develop the mindset of Christ?

4. A New Life That Is Fully Alive, Fully Surrendered, and Filled With Joy

- 9.** Paul says believers will “shine...like stars” in a warped and crooked generation. What would make the life of a surrendered follower of Jesus noticeably different in our culture today?
- 10.** Paul describes himself as being “poured out like a drink offering” and yet says he is glad and rejoices. How can surrender and sacrifice actually lead to greater joy rather than less joy?
- 11.** Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for me will find it” (Matthew 16:25). What do you think it means to be fully alive in Christ?

Personal Application - Fully Surrendered. Fully Alive.

When you fully surrender your life to Jesus, you come fully alive.

- 12.** What area of your life is Jesus asking you to surrender more fully this week? What would surrender actually look like?

Prepare for Next Week

Read Ahead

Philippians 2:19-30

Look for how Timothy and Epaphroditus demonstrate humility, genuine concern for others, sacrifice, service, and faithfulness. Mark one verse, phrase, or question to bring back to the group next week.