



JOURNEY GROUPS

APR 12 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

STUDY

Digging Deeper into "Discipleship: Surrender - Week 1"

1. What does the word surrender mean?
2. Why do Americans sometimes struggle with the words "surrender" and "submit"?
3. Matt gave 4 tests on Sunday to see if we are truly surrendered. The first test is to answer the question: Are you born again? What does it mean to be a born-again Christian?
4. To be born again requires us to have the cross in view, to trust in the work of God in Jesus for our salvation, and to be born again through the Spirit of God. If this is true, then what is the initial surrender? If God did all the work, then why do I need to surrender?
5. How does the symbolism of our baptism illustrate the idea of being born again? Have someone read 2 Corinthians 5:17.
6. Christian pastor and theologian, John Stott, once wrote: "Every time we look at the cross Christ seems to say to us, 'I am here because of you; it is your sin I am bearing.'" How does this quote relate to surrender? If you think about this relationally, what does this add to our idea of surrender?
7. The second characteristic of surrender is obedience. Why is obedience proof of surrender?
8. Have someone read **Philippians 2:5-8**. What does it mean that Christ became obedient to death - even death on a cross?
9. Christian theologian and pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." How does Bonhoeffer seem to define surrender? Do you agree or disagree?

10. Read John 12:23-29. This great scripture is full of key insights about discipleship and surrender. What are some key points that Jesus made in this passage?
11. The third characteristic of surrender is knowing that everything belongs to the Lord. What is the difference between a steward and an owner?
12. Our Heavenly Father takes great joy in blessing us. He gives us many great gifts not so we can hoard them, but so that we can have the same joy He has all the time. Why is it better to give than to receive?
13. The fourth characteristic of surrender from Sunday was called 'life-lean.' This phrase simply asks the question: "Where do you put your trust for everything in your life? Do you 'trust in the Lord with all your heart' or do you lean on other people or things?"
14. What are the things you are most tempted, right now, to trust in or lean on more than God?
15. Christian pastor Charles Spurgeon once said, "I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages." What kind of trust does this statement depict?
16. Matt closed on Sunday with an encouragement to all who find themselves in a season of waiting. When the stakes are huge, waiting for an answer, an outcome, or a diagnosis can feel like torture. Why is surrender the only way to peace in these critical, scary, and frustrating seasons?
17. The big question on Sunday was: Are you a fully surrendered Christian? What is something God might be asking you to lay at His feet as a beautiful act of surrender?

PRAYER

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