



JOURNEY GROUPS

SEPTEMBER 20 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

A few notes for you as a leader as you meet again this week:

- Thank you for all you do to shepherd these groups! It is a privilege to join Jesus Christ in His mission to create the community of His Kingdom and make His Father's life available through the Spirit. You lead others into Christ's life by creating space for the Spirit to work, and you are amazing!
- After two weeks of meetings, please evaluate whether you have people who signed up but aren't coming. After reaching out to them, are they planning to start coming? If not, please let Pastor Ryan know. Also, if you have openings in your groups, several people are still on waiting lists and want to join a community, so again let Pastor Ryan know.
- This week's questions are based on a topical sermon. Be ready to use multiple passages of Scripture to grasp a biblical theology of surrender.

CARE MINISTRY NOTE

- If you know someone needing encouragement or assistance or if you or someone in your group wants to know more about Journey's Care Ministry, email care@journeykingman.com.
- A simple meal can show Christ's love during a difficult season. Our Heart2Home ministry provides short-term meals for Journey families not currently in a Journey Group. Email care@journeykingman.com to find out how you can be a part of this ministry.

SHARE - ICE BREAKERS

- What is one place you've visited that you would gladly visit again?
- What are you currently learning?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into Surrender:

1. **Have someone read Exodus 3:11; 4:10; and 4:13.** What common desires of our hearts conflict with God's will for us? (At the root of many struggles with surrender is the desire to remain in control. Good desires can become sinful when we insist on satisfying them according to our own will rather than God's. In Moses' life, we see him resisting God because of fear, feelings of inadequacy, and desire for comfort.)
2. On Sunday, Robert defined surrender as the relinquishing or giving up of control to an authority greater than your own. What authorities do we have to surrender to in our daily life? **Have different people read these passages for biblical examples: Ephesians 6:1–3; Romans 13:1–7; Hebrews 13:17; Colossians 3:22–24; Ephesians 5:21–23.** (Parents, government, church leaders, employers/supervisors, spouses, and one another are all people God wants us to surrender and submit to, which helps train us to surrender to Him.)
3. In what ways is it easier to surrender to God than to those authorities? (It can be easier to surrender to God because we know God's character is perfectly good, perfectly wise, and perfectly loving. God's authority is ultimate and legitimate. He sees the whole picture when we only see part of it. We can trust that His commands ultimately serve His purposes.)
4. In what ways is it harder? (Surrendering to God can also be harder because we cannot physically see God, and we cannot always see what God is doing. God's timing can be very different from ours. We may not understand why God is asking something of us, and we may have to trust God without knowing the outcome. Finally, God may ask us to surrender something we deeply value.)
5. In what ways are Moses and Pharaoh good examples of surrender and non-surrender, respectively? (Moses initially resisted God, but ultimately surrendered to God's authority. His journey looks something like: God calls → Moses questions → God reassures → Moses obeys. But Pharaoh shows a different pattern and posture. God commands → Pharaoh resists → God demonstrates His power → Pharaoh continues resisting.)

6. Matt and Robert highlighted 5 fruits of Moses' surrender. Growth, fulfilling God's plan for his life, peace, victory, and closeness. Which of the 5 fruits, as they discussed them, impacted you most? (Answers will vary. Each person will be in a different stage of development and/or circumstances.)
7. Before we go too far into our study, which of the fruits above do you most hope to grow in this week? (Answers again will vary.)
8. Why is surrender the prerequisite to salvation and spiritual growth? **Have someone read Romans 10:9; Luke 9:23; and Romans 6:13** (Surrender is fundamental because salvation involves recognizing Jesus as Lord. We don't save ourselves. We surrender our claim to self-rule and trust in Christ. Jesus describes the continuing path of spiritual growth and discipleship similar to how spiritual life begins: with a daily surrender to follow Him. Paul also tells us that discipleship means a new relationship to sin and righteousness, which requires surrendering ourselves daily to God.)
9. How would you describe Moses at the beginning of the story, when he is called to go to Egypt to contend for God's people? **If you have time, read through Exodus 3:7–4:20.** (Exodus 3 & 4 tell the story of Moses having to surrender at the beginning of His relationship with God. We see that God's call often requires surrender before we understand everything God is doing.)
10. God is intentional about everything, including his plans for each of us. How could living an un-surrendered life hinder your ability to do what God has called you to do? **Have someone read Ephesians 2:10.** (Paul tells us we are being re-created in Christ Jesus for good works. But while the Spirit of God is doing this grace-filled work in us, it requires us to participate and relinquish control to the Spirit of God.)
11. Peace is found when God is in control. In what ways have you seen that to be true? (Answers will vary, but the key principle is this: The peace of God doesn't come from knowing what God is going to do; it comes from knowing who God is.)

12. Only God is powerful enough to always ensure victory. **Read Exodus 5:20–23.** How can that truth be challenging? **Read Exodus 14:14.** How can that be encouraging? (It is challenging because we often define victory according to the outcome we want. Surrender does not mean that if I obey, everything will work out immediately. It means even when I don't understand what God is doing, I trust Him. This truth is encouraging because ultimate victory does not depend upon us.)
13. What role does pursuing comfort play in your struggle to surrender your life to God? (Comfort becomes a problem when avoiding discomfort becomes more important than obeying God.)
14. Matt said that the greatest fruit of surrender is the closeness that we can have with God. **Have someone read Exodus 33:7-11.** What do we learn about Moses' relationship with God in this passage? (We learn that Moses pursued and valued God's presence. He didn't simply want God's blessings; he wanted God Himself. Moses communicated openly with God, bringing his questions, concerns, fears, and desires to God. He surrendered his plans and eventually discovered something far greater than simply accomplishing God's assignment. He experienced God's presence.)
15. What are the effects of our lack of surrender on our lives? (Examples could include: anxiety, disobedience, stunted growth, missed participation in God's purposes, relational damage with God and others, a loss of peace, distance from God, and even spiritual bondage.)
16. How can knowing these fruits (growth, fulfilling God's plan for his life, peace, victory, and closeness) turn surrender into a joyful act of worship instead of something we do begrudgingly? (Surrender is often viewed as God asking me to give up something. However, what if the deeper truth is that God is inviting me into something/Someone greater than I imagined?)

PRAYER

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