

Do You Surrender?

Connect Group Guide - 4.26.26

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you had to surrender control of something (a project, decision, or situation). How did it feel, and what was the outcome?

Key Scripture

- **Romans 10:9** - Confession and salvation
- **James 2:18-20** - Faith and works
- **Luke 6:46** - Jesus' challenging question
- **Matthew 7:21-23** - Not everyone who says "Lord, Lord"

Message Recap

This message challenges us to examine whether our faith is truly surrendered or just spoken. It reminds us that confession without submission leads to a divided life, where we say the right things but still hold onto control. The result is shallow transformation, loss of spiritual authority, and even self-deception. Like a drowning person resisting rescue, we often fight the very One trying to save us. But when we fully surrender and make Jesus Lord, everything changes—we experience real transformation, walk in His authority, and step into the abundant life He's promised.

Main Points

1. **Living Divided** - One foot in the kingdom, one foot in control
2. **Blurry Transformation** - Surface-level Christianity
3. **Lost Spiritual Authority** - Authority flows from submission
4. **Forfeited Abundant Life** - Missing God's full plan
5. **Self-Deception** - Religious activity without surrender

Discussion Questions

Understanding Surrender

1. **The Core Question:** Pastor Mike asked, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord and not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46). How does this question make you feel? What areas of your life does it bring to mind?
2. **Confession vs. Submission:** How do you understand the difference between confessing Jesus as Savior and submitting to Him as Lord? Can you have one without the other?
3. **The Divided Life:** What does it look like practically to live with "one foot in the kingdom and one foot in control"? Can you identify areas where you might be doing this?

Examining Our Lives

4. **Authority and Submission:** The message used the illustration of a police officer having authority because they've submitted to the police organization. How does submitting to Christ's authority give us spiritual authority? Have you experienced this?
5. **Struggling vs. Resisting:** Pastor Mike distinguished between struggling with surrender and resisting surrender. What's the difference? Which one characterizes your current walk with God in specific areas?
6. **The Lordship Test:** If someone followed you around for a week, what would they conclude is actually "lord" of your life? (Your feelings? Habits? Past? Desires? Or Jesus?)

Going Deeper

7. **Transformation vs. Information:** "Transformation doesn't come from information. It comes from surrender and obedience." How have you seen this truth play out in your life or the lives of others?
8. **The Abundant Life:** Jesus promised abundant life (John 10:10), but the message suggests many Christians forfeit this through partial surrender. What do you think you might be missing because of areas you haven't surrendered?
9. **The Drowning Illustration:** How does the image of a drowning person fighting their rescuer relate to your relationship with Jesus? In what ways do you "thrash and fight" instead of surrendering to the Savior?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE area to practice surrender:

1. Identify One Area of Resistance

- Be specific: What is one thing you know God is asking you to surrender?
- Write it down and share it with at least one trusted person

2. Daily Surrender Prayer

- Each morning this week, pray: "Lord, today I surrender [specific area] to Your authority. Help me obey You in this area."

3. Replace Resistance with Obedience

- Take one concrete action this week that demonstrates surrender in your identified area
- Examples:
 - If it's finances, create a biblical giving plan
 - If it's a relationship, have that difficult conversation
 - If it's a habit, remove the temptation and get accountability
 - If it's unforgiveness, write a letter (send or don't send, but release it to God)

4. Track Your Progress

- Journal daily about your struggle/victory with surrender
- Note when you feel tension (sign of divided living) vs. peace (sign of surrender)

Prayer Requests & Closing

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to different perspectives on Israel; focus on biblical teaching rather than politics
- Encourage participation from everyone, but don't force anyone to share
- If someone wants to give their life to Christ during discussion, be prepared to pray with them
- Keep the discussion focused on personal application, not just theological debate
- Consider inviting someone knowledgeable about Israel or Jewish culture to a future meeting