



A Good Word Week 2 – SURRENDER **Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

Matthew 16:24-26

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴ So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. ⁵ He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, ⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites.

⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord. ⁹ Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev.

Genesis 12:1-8

Reflection Questions:

- What's one decision that you never have to think about – that you already know the answer ahead of time? (Example: your order at a favorite restaurant)
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)

- Read Jesus' words in Matthew 16:24-26. How do his words challenge you?
 - In the message, Chris encouraged us to pre-decide to surrender. What would it look like to decide today that you will always choose God's way, even when it is unpopular or challenging? Take a moment to write down what that might look like.
 - Read about Abram (aka Abraham) in Genesis 12:1-8. What do you observe about God in these verses? What do you observe about Abram?
 - Chris listed several observations about a pre-surrendered life from Abram's story:
 - A surrendered life is built on what God has done for you, above what you can do for God.
 - A surrendered life will often be marked by reassurance.
 - A surrendered life stands out as different to an unbelieving world.
 - A surrendered life resists grasping for control.
 - It's never too late to return to the surrendered life.
- Which of these stands out to you today? Why is that?
- Chris offered this question to ask as we face decisions: "what would a surrendered person do?" How could this question impact your decisions? Try it out: what's one situation or decision you need God's wisdom on? What would a surrendered person do?
 - Another encouragement from the message is to ask: **To whom will you give permission to speak truth to you when you need a reminder of your pre-decision to put God first?** List one or two people (who have surrendered their lives to God) who might be willing to do that in your life.
 - Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
 - Take time to pray and surrender to God as you close your time of reflection or discussion.

Want some resources and ideas for how to grow spiritually?

We are spotlighting our resource, "**How to Pray and Read the Bible,**" which you can get at our Next Steps Area or access online at https://www.wschurch.org/content/pdf/How2PrayBible_Digital.pdf.

Visit www.wschurch.org/resources to see additional tools and resources.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- **SURRENDER**
- Matthew 16:24 - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."
- Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."
- **PRE-DECIDE TODAY to surrender your life and all future decisions to God.**
- **"I will have surrendered."**
- **What makes future surrender "perfect" is that you've already done it.**
- Genesis 11:3-4 - They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly" Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."
- Genesis 12:1 - "The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you."

- Genesis 12:2 - “I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”
- **A surrendered life is built on what God has done for you, above what you can do for God.**
- Genesis 12:7 - “The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.”
- **A surrendered life will often be marked by reassurance.**
- Genesis 12:8 - “Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the Lord, who had appeared to him. After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshipped the Lord.
- **A surrendered life stands out as different to an unbelieving world.**
- **A surrendered life resists grasping for control.**
- Genesis 13:3-4 - “From the Negev, they continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the Lord again.”
- **It’s never too late to return to the surrendered life.**
- **What would a surrendered person do?**