

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE: “DYING TO LIVE”

(John 12:24–25 – The Paradox of Life in Christ)

Source:

BIG IDEA

True life in Christ is found not in holding on, but in letting go—when we surrender our lives, God transforms them into something far greater.

THEME

Surrender, Sacrifice, and the Path to Abundant Life

CONTEXT (Historical + Biblical Setting)







- Found in **John 12:24–25**, as Jesus speaks about His coming death.
 - Occurs just before:
 - His crucifixion
 - Jesus uses a farming metaphor:
 - A seed must die to produce life
 - This points to:
 - His death → bringing salvation
 - Our surrender → leading to transformation
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MAIN POINT 1: LIFE IN CHRIST BEGINS WITH SURRENDER

Key Scripture

- John 12:24 – *“Unless a kernel of wheat falls... and dies...”*
- Luke 9:23 – *“Deny yourself...”*

Teaching Insight

- Holding onto life:
 - Keeps it limited
- Letting go:
 - Opens the door to new life
- Surrender is:

- The starting point of transformation

Application

- What are you holding onto too tightly?
- What would surrender look like today?

Sticky Quote

“You can’t experience new life while holding onto the old one.”

MAIN POINT 2: CLINGING TO LIFE LEADS TO LOSS

Key Scripture

- John 12:25 – *“Anyone who loves their life will lose it...”*
- Matthew 16:26 – *“What good will it be...?”*

Teaching Insight

- When we cling to:
 - Control
 - Comfort
 - Security
- We limit:
 - What God wants to do
- Self-preservation often blocks:

- Spiritual growth

Application

- Where are you “white-knuckling” your life?
- What fears are driving that?

Sticky Quote

“The tighter you hold, the more you lose.”

MAIN POINT 3: LETTING GO LEADS TO ABUNDANT LIFE

Key Scripture

- John 10:10 – *“I have come that they may have life...”*
- John 12:24 – *“It produces many seeds.”*

Teaching Insight

- Surrender leads to:
 - Multiplication
 - Growth
 - Abundance
- God takes what is surrendered:
 - And expands it beyond imagination

Application

- What could God do if you fully let go?
- Where is He calling you to trust Him more?

Sticky Quote

“What you surrender, God multiplies.”

MAIN POINT 4: DYING TO SELF IS A DAILY DECISION

Key Scripture

- Luke 9:23 – *“Take up your cross daily...”*
- Galatians 2:20 – *“I have been crucified with Christ...”*

Teaching Insight

- Dying to self is not:
 - One moment
- It is:
 - A daily choice
- Each day we decide:
 - Self → or Christ

Application

- How are you choosing Christ daily?
- What needs to “die” in your life today?

Sticky Quote

“Dying to self is the doorway to living fully.”

MAIN POINT 5: SURRENDER REPLACES FEAR WITH TRUST

Key Scripture

- Proverbs 3:5 – *“Trust in the Lord...”*
- Isaiah 41:10 – *“Do not fear...”*

Teaching Insight

- We cling because:
 - We fear losing control
- Surrender says:
 - “God, I trust You more than myself.”
- Trust leads to:
 - Peace
 - Freedom
 - Confidence in God

Application

- What fears are keeping you from surrender?
- How can you grow in trust?

Sticky Quote

“Surrender is trust in action.”

MAIN POINT 6: A LIFE GIVEN AWAY IS A LIFE WELL LIVED

Key Scripture

- Acts 20:35 – *“More blessed to give...”*
- Philippians 2:4 – *“Look to the interests of others...”*

Teaching Insight

- The world says:
 - Take, keep, protect
- Jesus says:
 - Give, serve, release
- The most meaningful life:
 - Is one poured out for others

Application

- How can you give more of yourself today?
- Who can you serve?

Sticky Quote

“You find your life when you give it away.”

MAIN POINT 7: GOD TRANSFORMS WHAT WE SURRENDER

Key Scripture

- Romans 8:28 – “*God works for the good...*”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “*New creation.*”

Teaching Insight

- Surrender doesn’t lead to loss:
 - It leads to transformation
- God:
 - Redeems
 - Restores
 - Rebuilds
- What looks like death:
 - Becomes new life

Application

- What needs to be placed in God’s hands?
- Do you trust Him with the outcome?

Sticky Quote

“God turns surrendered lives into transformed lives.”

MAIN POINT 8: TRUE FREEDOM COMES FROM LETTING GO

Key Scripture

- Galatians 5:1 – *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”*
- Psalm 55:22 – *“Cast your cares...”*

Teaching Insight

- Clinging creates:
 - Stress
 - Anxiety
 - Burden
- Surrender brings:
 - Freedom
 - Peace
 - Joy
- Letting go:
 - Releases control
 - Invites God’s work

Application

- What burden do you need to release?
- How can you walk in freedom today?

Sticky Quote

“Freedom begins where control ends.”

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean for a seed to “die”?
 2. Why is surrender so difficult?
 3. What are you holding onto too tightly?
 4. How does surrender lead to freedom?
 5. What daily decisions help you follow Christ?
 6. How has God transformed something you surrendered?
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PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

- Identify one thing you are clinging to—release it to God.
 - Start your day with the prayer: “*Lord, I surrender this to You.*”
 - Serve someone as an act of giving your life away.
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FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

The seed must fall...
before it can grow.

Let go—so God can bring life.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father,

Teach us to surrender fully to You.

Help us release control and trust Your plan.

Give us the courage to die to ourselves so we can truly live.

Transform our lives into something that reflects Your glory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.