

# Small Group Guide: The Power of Surrender

## Opening Prayer & Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

**Ice Breaker Question:** Share about a time when you had to trust someone completely (like a surgeon, pilot, or friend). What made it easy or difficult to trust them?

## Key Scripture References

- Numbers 13-14 (The Twelve Spies)
- Galatians 2:20
- Luke 9:23-24
- Romans 12:1-2
- Isaiah 64:8
- Jeremiah 29:11

## Main Themes & Discussion Questions

### Theme 1: Understanding Surrender (15 minutes)

**Key Point:** Surrender is not weakness—it's trusting God enough to follow Him even when we can't see the full picture.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that Israel saw both the abundant fruit AND the giants. What "giants" in your life make it difficult to trust God's promises?

2. Pastor Jeff said, "In the history that we have recorded...had God ever failed? One time?" How does remembering God's faithfulness in the past help you surrender present concerns?
3. What's the difference between "giving up" and "surrendering to God"? Why does this distinction matter?

## **Theme 2: What We're Really Afraid Of (20 minutes)**

**Key Point:** "What am I afraid to lose if I surrender that thing? If I know the answer to that, it'll probably be a lot easier to fight whatever the thing is I'm addicted to."

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The sermon describes Pharaoh's progressive compromises: worship in Egypt, stay in the country, leave the children behind. What "partial surrenders" are you tempted to make with God?
2. **Personal Reflection (share if comfortable):** What is one thing you're holding onto that you're afraid to surrender to God? What do you fear losing if you let it go?
3. How does understanding God's love for us make surrender easier? What blocks us from believing we're truly loved?

## **Theme 3: The Clay and the Potter (15 minutes)**

**Key Point:** "A potter can only mold the clay when it's completely in his hands. It requires complete surrender."

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Read Isaiah 64:8 together. What does it mean practically to be "clay in the potter's hands"?

2. The sermon mentions coming to church with a "huge backpack" of things we want to keep. If your backpack were visible, what would be in it?
3. Why do we struggle to believe that God's plans are "always our best interest"?

## **Theme 4: Remembering Who We Are (15 minutes)**

**Key Point:** "The thing that hurts the heart of God the most is when we surrender who we are in Christ."

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The sermon lists our identity: new creation, redeemed, delivered, sanctified, deeply loved. Which of these truths do you struggle most to believe about yourself?
2. How does forgetting our identity in Christ cause us to "surrender territory back to the enemy"?
3. The Israelites fought Amalek (representing the flesh) right before entering the Promised Land. Why does spiritual warfare often intensify when we're close to breakthrough?

## **Practical Application (15 minutes)**

### **The Open Hand Exercise**

During the sermon, we were asked to open our right hand as a symbol of surrender. Let's revisit this:

### **Individual Reflection (5 minutes):**

- What specific thing did you symbolically place in your open hand during the service?

- What would it look like practically to surrender this to God this week?

**Group Activity:** Choose one area where your group can practice surrender together this week:

### **Option 1: Daily Surrender Check-In**

- Text or message the group each morning: "Today I'm surrendering \_\_\_\_\_ to God"
- Pray for one another throughout the week

### **Option 2: The "Why Am I Afraid?" Journal**

- Each day this week, journal about something you're holding onto
- Ask yourself: "What am I afraid God will take away if I surrender this?"
- Share insights with the group next week

### **Option 3: Identity Declarations**

- Each person chooses one identity truth (new creation, redeemed, delivered, loved)
- Find 3-5 scriptures that affirm this identity
- Read them aloud daily and share how this changes your perspective

## **Key Takeaways**

**Write these down and refer to them throughout the week:**

1. **Surrender is not about losing—it's about trusting.** God has never failed, not once.
2. **Identify your fear.** Ask yourself: "What am I afraid to lose if I surrender this to God?"

3. **Partial surrender isn't surrender.** God doesn't want us to stay "in Egypt," "in the country," or to keep part of our lives for ourselves.
4. **Remember your identity.** You are a new creation, redeemed, delivered, and deeply loved by God.
5. **The battle is real.** Like Amalek attacking from behind, the enemy hits us at our weakest points—but God fights for us when we surrender.

## Closing Exercise (10 minutes)

**Prayer of Surrender:** Go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence in prayer: *"God, today I'm choosing to surrender \_\_\_\_\_ because I trust that you \_\_\_\_\_."*

After each person shares, have the group respond: *"We stand with you in this surrender."*

## For Next Week

**Personal Challenge:** Practice the "open hand" exercise daily. Each morning, physically open your hand and name one thing you're surrendering to God that day.

**Scripture Memory:** *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* - Galatians 2:20

**Reflection Question for Next Meeting:** How did God show up when you surrendered something to Him this week?

## Additional Resources

- Read through the Israelites' wilderness journey (Exodus 13-17) this week
- Consider reading: "Absolute Surrender" by Andrew Murray
- Listen to worship songs about surrender and trust this week