

SMALL GROUPS

Key Scripture References

- John 15:13
- Isaiah 6:1-8
- Romans 12:1

Main Themes

1. The Cross Was Personal
2. Remembrance Should Produce Response
3. Following Jesus Requires Full Surrender
4. God Is Still Calling People
5. Your "Yes" to God Affects Generations

Discussion Questions

Part 1: The Power of Remembrance

Q1: Pastor Jon mentioned that "comfort truly makes people forgetful." What are some spiritual blessings, answered prayers, or moments with God that you've forgotten or taken for granted?

Q2: Read John 15:13. How does comparing military sacrifice to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross change your perspective on what Christ did for you personally?

Q3: The sermon stated, "The nails didn't hold Jesus to the cross—love did." What does this truth mean to you personally?

Part 2: From Emotion to Action

Q4: Pastor Jon said, "Remembrance in scripture was never supposed to stop at emotion. It was supposed to produce response."

- What's the difference between being emotionally moved by Jesus and actually following Him?
- Can you share an example from your life?

Q5: Be honest: In what areas of your faith have you been like a "gym membership Christian" —signed up but not showing evidence of transformation?

Q6: Read Isaiah 6:1-8. Isaiah's response to God's holiness was conviction ("Woe is me"), then cleansing, then calling ("Here am I, send me").

- When was the last time you trembled at God's holiness rather than treating Him casually?
- What keeps us from having this kind of encounter with God?

Part 3: The Cost of Following Jesus

Q7: The sermon challenged: "Everybody wants resurrection power, but nobody wants crucifixion surrender." What does crucifixion surrender look like in your daily life?

Q8: Pastor Jon listed things Jesus might be asking us to surrender:

- Pride
- Comfort
- Ego
- Compromising relationships
- Bitterness
- Popularity

Which of these (or something else) is God asking you to lay down right now? What's holding you back?

Q9: "Partial surrender creates constant tension."

- Where in your life are you experiencing spiritual exhaustion because you're only following Jesus halfway?
- What would full surrender look like in that area?

Part 4: Answering God's Call

Q10: Pastor Jon shared that God has been calling him to do things he didn't feel qualified for. Has God been calling you to something you've been avoiding? What excuses have you been making?

Q11: For the men in the group: The sermon specifically addressed men who let their wives "drag the family spiritually."

- Men: How are you leading (or not leading) your family spiritually?
- Women: How can you encourage and support spiritual leadership without taking it over?

Q12: "Your calling is irrevocable. You can walk away from it, but God doesn't take it back because you made mistakes." How does this truth change the way you view your past failures and future calling?

Part 5: Legacy and Eternity

Q13: The sermon reminded us that "one believer's obedience changes future generations."

- Who in your life said "yes" to God, and how has their obedience affected you?
- What legacy of faith do you want to leave?

Q14: "One day your life will be summarized by a dash between two dates." When you stand before God, what do you want Him to say about how you lived that dash?

Key Takeaways

Write these down and discuss which one resonates most with your group:

1. People don't die for things they don't value. Jesus valued you personally enough to choose the cross.
2. Remembrance should produce response, not just emotion. Don't just feel moved—be moved to action.
3. Living sacrifices keep crawling off the altar. Stop saying "yes, but..." to God.
4. Your brokenness doesn't disqualify you. God specializes in calling imperfect people.
5. You may never fully know what's attached to your obedience. One "yes" to God can alter generations.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

Option 1: Remembrance Journal

- Each day, write down one thing God has done for you that you've forgotten or taken for granted
- End the week by thanking God specifically for these things

Option 2: The "Here I Am" Prayer

- Spend 15 minutes in prayer asking God: "What have You been calling me to that I've been ignoring?"
- Write down what you sense Him saying
- Share it with one trusted person for accountability

Option 3: Family Spiritual Leadership

- (Especially for men) Initiate one spiritual conversation or prayer time with your family this week

- This could be praying before a meal, reading a Bible story with kids, or praying with your spouse

Option 4: The Surrender List

- Make a list of things God is asking you to surrender (relationships, habits, pride, comfort, etc.)
- Pick ONE thing and take a concrete step to surrender it this week
- Tell your small group what you're surrendering for accountability

Option 5: Answer the Call

- If you've been sensing God calling you to serve in a specific way (ministry, forgiveness, career change, etc.), take ONE ACTION STEP this week toward that calling
- It doesn't have to be the full surrender—just one step forward

Closing Discussion

Final Question: What's one thing you're taking away from this discussion that you want to act on this week?

Have each person share briefly, then commit to checking in with each other during the week about your chosen application.

Closing Prayer

Pray together using this framework:

- Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus and for those who've sacrificed for our freedom
- Confess areas where you've been casual with holy things or halfhearted in following Jesus
- Surrender specific things God has been asking you to lay down
- Ask God for courage to answer His call, whatever that looks like
- Pray for each other specifically based on what was shared

For Next Week

Accountability Check-In: Start next week's meeting by having everyone share how they did with their chosen practical application. Celebrate wins and encourage those who struggled.

Memory Verse: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." - Romans 12:1

Leader Notes

- Create a safe space: Some of these questions are deeply personal. Remind the group that what's shared stays in the group.
- Don't rush: It's okay if you don't get through all the questions. Go deeper rather than broader.
- Be vulnerable first: As the leader, model transparency by sharing your own struggles with surrender and obedience.
- Watch for the Holy Spirit: If someone shares something significant, pause and pray for them right then.
- Follow up: Text your group members mid-week to encourage them in their practical applications.