Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

I SURRENDER | MY WILL

**WEEK 1**

**Introduction to the Series**

In the book of Romans, Paul wrote the following: “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of

God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:1-2).

In this series called **“I Surrender”** we will be exploring what it means to offer ourselves to God as “living sacrifices”. What does it mean to surrender to Him, not just once, but daily? How might my life look different if I habitually surrendered to God my will, my week, my worship, and my walk?

This week our focus is on surrendering our will. Consider these words as we undertake this study: “The world and its desires pass away, but the one who does the will of God lives forever” (I John 2:17).

**Surrendering my will means acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus**

We often refer to Jesus as “Lord”, but may not understand what that means. To discover the meaning of “Lord” or “Lordship” try downloading an app to your smartphone called “Vine(s) Expository Dictionary”. Once you’ve done that, simply type in the word “Lord” to read about the meaning of that word in Greek, the original language of the New Testament. Summarize what you find below:

According to I Corinthians 6:20, why must Jesus be honored as Lord in our lives?

If we call Jesus “Lord,” what does Luke 6:46-49 say must naturally follow?

Even the Lord Jesus lived a life of submission and obedience. How did He state his mission in John 4:34?

**Surrendering my will means putting others first**

We all have selfish desires and a tendency to make choices that bring comfort, recognition, or pleasure our way. Surrendering my will involves taking into consideration the needs and wants of other people and then working for their well-being.

Read and summarize the following verses:

* Philippians 2:3-4
* Acts 20:35

What did Jesus say in Mark 10:45 related to putting others first?

When Jesus prayed, “Not my will, but yours be done” in Luke 22:42, in what way was He putting the needs of others before His own?

**Surrendering my will means allowing God to lead and direct me**

Some of us have very clear and specific goals for our lives. We have ideas about where we want to go and what we hope to do or become. Inviting God to direct our lives is an act of surrender.

What does Proverbs 3:5-6 promise to those who trust God and depend on Him for guidance?

In Jeremiah 6:16, what assurances had God given to those who would seek His guidance at “the crossroads?”

What does James 4:13-17 indicate we should do when making plans for the future?

**Weekly Challenge: Journaling**

Grab a journal and spend some time this week doing some honest self-evaluation. Ask yourself the following questions and write down your responses:

To what extent have I surrendered my will to God?

What are some areas in which I can see progress?

What are some areas in which I still struggle?

Would the people who know me best say I am mostly concerned with my own desires or that I am committed to the well-being of the people around me?

What are some things that would change if I completely surrendered my will to God?

Ask God to help you by praying David’s prayer in Psalm 139. “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

**Group Discussion**

Surrendering our will means being more others-focused. What are some factors that might contribute to a person being more self-centered and selfish?

What are some ways you see yourself slip back into selfish attitudes or behaviors?

Surrendering our will means seeking God’s direction when we have big decisions to make. Describe a time when you were at a crossroads in life. How did you go about making your decision?

What comes to mind for you when you hear the phrase “living sacrifices?” Why do you think Paul used that image in Romans 12?

Was there anything else in the reading you wanted to discuss this week?