

Surrender All

SIX BIBLE STUDY LESSONS FOR GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

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SURRENDER ALL

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How to Use this Material

In Victory, the primary venue for discipleship happens in a small group. It is called a Victory group. We strongly encourage everyone to be involved since these groups are specifically designed to help disciples grow spiritually.

A Victory group meeting has three sections: **Connect**, **Word**, and **Prayer**, and ideally lasts from forty to sixty minutes.

CONNECT (5-10 minutes)

Victory group meetings begin with a time to relate with one another. Depending on the people who comprise the group, this can be done through a variety of ways:

- Fun—such as an icebreaker activity
- Answered prayers—sharing of testimonies and updates
- Questions—such as those provided in the material, learning each other's personal stories, and sharing feedback from the weekly message

Effective Questions During the Connect Portion:

- Are deliberately friendly to first-timers
- Ask for opinion or experiences
- Require no Bible knowledge
- · Have no right or wrong answer
- Are not controversial
- Are preferably connected to the meeting's topic

WORD (20-30 minutes)

Teach the truth and relevance of God's Word for life application. The Victory group meeting is not primarily a Bible study. Although teaching and explanation of Scripture is involved, the goal is to minister, not finish a material.

There is no need to teach all the points in a material.

Within this section, we look at what the Bible says, its relevance to us today, and its application in our lives.

What: What does the Bible say?
Communicate and impart biblical truth clearly and concisely.

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. ² TIMOTHY 3:16,17

Tips for Sharing the Word Effectively

- Let the Bible speak for itself.
- Use illustrations and tell stories to explain Bible verses.
- When entertaining clarifications, be watchful not to allow the discussion to go off-tangent.
- The primary goal is to minister to the needs of the people, not to finish a Bible lesson.
- Be led by the Spirit when using the material.

So What: What is the relevance of the Word to my life? Give participants the opportunity to discuss how the Word impacts the way they live.

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.

Now What: How do I apply the Word to my life?

Our primary reason for sharing the Bible is so that people will know who God is and what He has done. In doing so, the participants will begin to discover who they are and what they should do.

If it is a promise, teach them to claim it. If it is a command or a principle, encourage them to put it to action by God's grace. If it is a truth, let them embrace it willingly and not under compulsion. Allow God's grace and love to win them by the way you teach God's Word.

Encourage specific, measurable action steps that are consistent with the life change that the Scripture is bringing about. We do not command people, but we spur them on toward love and good deeds.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. $^{1:22}$

Tips for Life-Changing Application

- You may choose one of the "So What" and "Now What" questions or you may add your own.
- An effective standby application question is: "What one action step are you going to take as a result of what you heard today?"
- Designate who will be the first to answer the question asked.
- Do not allow someone to argue or be critical of others.
- Remind everyone to apply the lesson to their own lives, not to someone else's.
- Ask God for wisdom to know when to balance or correct strange or unbiblical applications. Insensitive correction or criticism can kill the group, as can unchecked heresy.
- Remind everyone that transformation is God's work, not ours, and our obedience is a response to who He is and His love for us. It is God's grace that enables us to apply and obey His Word.

PRAY (15-20 minutes)

Prayer is the most important part of the Victory group meeting. Make sure you have plenty of time left so your prayer time is not rushed. This is not a "closing prayer," but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God. This is where the action is. The goal is to create a venue where people will see God move on their behalf.

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." MATTHEW 18:19

Tips for Powerful Prayer

- Listen to the Holy Spirit carefully during the Connect and Word sections for things that may need prayer.
- Spend your time praying for one another, not sharing and discussing prayer requests.
- Keep your prayers simple, sincere, and short. Most non-believers have never heard an ordinary Christian just talk to God and will be touched by the sincerity and simplicity of the prayer.
- Pray, don't preach. Pray in simple and short sentences, not long "sermon prayers."
- Use conversational prayer, not complicated or profound, intercessory prayer.
- Expect God to answer your prayers.

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Chosen and Blessed

- Do you like shopping? Why or why not?
- What's one item you don't think you can live without? Why?
- What's the greatest blessing you've received this year?

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—6to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. EPHESIANS 1:3-6

WHAT

People often face the pressure of proving themselves to others so that they will be accepted. This often results in disappointment, loss of self-worth, and even broken relationships. However, because we are Christians, we know we are chosen, accepted, blessed, and loved by God. This is who we are—and this brings a security that no one and nothing else can give. In Christ, we are:

Chosen to be holy and blameless

⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. . . . ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. EPHESIANS 1:4.7.8

God is holy, unlike any other. We are not holy—we are sinful and left to ourselves, we can never be holy (set apart) or blameless. God, in His wisdom and power, chose us for Him and made us holy through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Because of God's love, mercy, and grace, we are not unwanted or overlooked.

respond to what Jesus has done for us (2 Corinthians 7:1)?

Loved and blessed

¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. . . . ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. 1 JOHN 4:10,19

¹⁷... you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

EPHESIANS 4:17-19

Some people love others because of what they did for or to them. But God chose us because of His love for us. not because of our love for Him. He loves us despite our sin and demonstrated this on the cross.

How has God's love for you given vou a new drive to live?

Accepted as sons and daughters

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God . . . JOHN 1:12

Today, adoption is about allowing an outsider to be a member of the family. But in ancient times, adoption (Ephesians 1:5) meant bestowing the status of full adulthood on a son, and making him an heir who has full rights and privileges. In Christ, we are all sons and daughters of God (Galatians 3:26-29).

How are sons and daughters accepted in a family? What are some of their rights and privileges?

How can we

- How has the security of God's love for you changed your life? How would you compare this security to the insecurities of the world?
- What things do you feel you need to do to feel accepted by others? How about the things that others must do before you accept them? What does the Bible say about who we are and how we are to love?
- How did you view yourself before? How has God's view of you changed your understanding of yourself?

NOW WHAT

- Do you believe God loves you and has chosen you? How do you think you should live in light of this love and blessing?
- How can you grow in your understanding of who you are in Christ this week?
- From where or whom do you get your identity and security? What insecurities or false identities do you need to surrender to Christ?

Thank God for choosing and loving you. Ask Him to help you grow in your understanding of this truth every day.

- Surrender every area of your life to God. Pray that you will experience His love and grace for you in a powerful way.
- Pray for your friends and family who don't know Jesus yet to also surrender their lives to Him. Pray that they would know how much God loves them, and ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with them.

Recipients of Mercy and Grace

- Recall a time when someone treated you to a meal or a cup of coffee. Why do you think s/he did it?
- Who's the most gracious person you know? Why do you think s/he is so gracious?
- How were you disciplined as a child? Recall an instance explaining this.

³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus, FPHESIANS 2:3-7

WHAT

A gift is something we don't deserve or pay back. When God saved us from our sin, He did so not because we deserved to be saved or because we could pay Him back for His sacrifice. Although God is just and should have given us what we deserved, He chose to show us mercy and grace by sparing us the penalty for our sins. In this lesson, we will look at three concepts for us to understand God more: justice, mercy, and grace.

God's justice is when He gives us what we deserve.

¹⁰As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God." ROMANS 3:10,11

 \dots for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God \dots ROMANS 3:23

The drive to sin comes from our sinful nature that rebels against God (Romans 3:9-18). This is why anything good we may do is still unacceptable. And because God is just, sin should be punished. Jesus met the requirements of God's justice and took our place—our sins were placed on Him.

God's mercy is when He does not give us what we deserve.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 6:23

Because of God's mercy, we have been spared from

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what we deserve.

What are "wages"?

How is this the
opposite of a
"gift"? How and
when did you
understand the
gospel and what
Jesus did for you
on the cross?

Why can we never

save ourselves?

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God's grace is when He gives us what we don't deserve.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...

EPHESIANS 2:8

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. EPHESIANS 1:3

In Christ, we have not just been spared from the punishment we deserve. We have also received the blessings we don't deserve. Grace would be not just sparing a criminal from the death penalty, but giving the person a new house, car, job, and everything else s/he would need. That's how God is to us.

We are sinful, and yet He is so gracious to us. How has God's grace changed your life?

SO WHAT

- Why do some people think hell isn't real? Does hell negate God's love and mercy?
- What is eternal life? Why is heaven a place every Christian can look forward to?
- Based on Ephesians 2:8-10, how should we live, now that we know that we are saved by God's grace?

NOW WHAT

- Knowing that we deserve God's justice but received His mercy and grace instead, how will this affect your life? What's one thing you can do in response to this?
- How can you grow in your understanding of God's mercy and grace this week?
- When and with whom can you share the good news of God's grace this week?



- Thank God for who He is—just, merciful, and gracious. Thank God for how He reached out to us in mercy and how He has lavished us with grace.
- Pray that you will know God more and that you will always appreciate who He is and what He has done for you. Declare your complete confidence in Him.
- Pray that you will be a channel of God's mercy and grace.

Gospel Truth

ONNECT

- What was the highlight of your week? What happened?
- Tell us about one of the most prestigious events you've ever attended.
- What inheritance do you wish to leave for the next generation? Why?

⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. EPHESIANS 3:4-6

WHAT

In the Old Testament, the Israelites rightly believed that they were God's chosen people (Exodus 6:6,7). Though there were indications that non-Jews (Gentiles) would also be added to God's kingdom (Genesis 12:2,3; Isaiah 2:2-5; Daniel 7:14,27), the Jews found this to be a mystery. But God had planned, since the beginning of time, for Jews and non-Jews to be equal partakers of what God offers through the gospel. In this lesson, we will look at how Paul unpacked the mystery of the gospel, which is available for all.

We are heirs of God and we have an inheritance.

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. GALATIANS 3:29

God says that everyone who belongs to Christ is an heir—and lineage has nothing to do with it.

What is an heir? What is an heir entitled to?

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2	We	are	made	new
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Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

If Jesus is the Lord of our lives, our old selves and identities are gone, and we are made new. We are victorious because of what Jesus has done for us. As long as our lives are centered on Christ, we can face many challenges and we can do what He has called us to do.

How did you become a new creation? What was the old you like?

3 We are messengers of the gospel.

Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ . . . EPHESIANS 3:8

Just as we benefit from the gospel, we also share in the task of sharing this to others. God allows us to be part of this, and we can bank on God's grace to help us.

Why do we need grace to do this?

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- Name a few promises in the Bible that we are entitled to as God's people.
- What does a new creation look like? How have you been made new?
- Why should we share the gospel? Why is this an urgent task?

NOW WHAT

- Are you a new creation in Christ? If not, would you like to become one today?
- How can you grow in your understanding of God and His inheritance for you this week?
- To whom can you share the gospel this week? How can you prepare for it?

Thank God that through Jesus, we can be saved and God has a purpose for our lives.Pray that you will know God more as each day passes.

Pray that you will walk in God's grace and be a messenger of the gospel wherever you go.

WalkingWorthy ofthe Calling

- What's the best prize or award you've received? Why did you get it?
- What do you want to be known for? Why?
- What's one of the hardest things you've ever been through (at home, in school, or at work)? How did you survive through it?

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

WHAT

After sharing about what God has done for us and given us through Christ in Ephesians 1-3, the Apostle Paul now exhorts us to live a life worthy of the calling we have received. The way we live should reflect God's work in us. A life worthy of God's call is an apt and thankful response to God's blessings and grace, and all of this is only possible because of who God is in us. In this lesson, we will look at how we can live this out in a practical way.

1 Walk in humility.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. ROMANS 12:3

We have the tendency to think of ourselves. Pride comes in many forms, but God is not pleased with it and He doesn't reward it. We are commanded to walk in humility, understanding our place, and learning to see ourselves as how God sees us—not lower or higher than others.

How have you learned to walk in humility?	
2	Preserve the unity. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through
	the bond of peace. EPHESIANS 4:3 God has not designed us to walk alone, and when we were reconciled to Him, we were added to His family. As we walk with our spiritual family, we will face challenges, disappointments, and offense. But the Bible

commands us to preserve the unity.

What does it mean to make "every effort"? How have you made every effort to preserve a godly relationship?

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3 Speak truthfully.

¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. . . . ²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. EPHESIANS 4:15,25

Why should we speak the truth "in love"? What is the connection between love and our words? What is the result of speaking the truth in love?

As we preserve the army, we also need to team to speak
the truth in love. We are to put away lies, hypocrisy,
gossip, flattery, and rumors. Instead, we are to practice
integrity and honesty.

As we preserve the unity we also need to learn to speak

- Why do you think grace abounds for the humble? Why does God oppose the proud (James 4:6)?
- In what ways can we keep the unity of the Spirit in the church? What should we guard ourselves from? How can we protect the relationships God has given us?
- Why do you think Paul urged the Ephesians to live a life worthy of the calling they have received? How can we do this?

NOW WHAT

- How can you live a life worthy of the calling you have received every day?
- Are you walking in humility? In what area do you need to humble yourself before the Lord?
- Is God honored in your relationships? Is there a relationship that needs to be restored or protected? How can you reach out to that person and preserve the unity this coming week?

Thank God for the grace He gives us to live a life worthy of the calling we have received. Pray that you will be found faithful to the Lord until the very end.

- Ask God to give you humility, patience, wisdom, and faith. Pray that your relationships will honor God always and that you would speak the truth in love.
- Pray for the church to be united and that the members of the body would preserve the unity. Pray that the church will be the salt and light God has called it to be.

Becoming More Like Christ

- What's your favorite fruit? Why do you like it so much?
- Tell us about one mannerism or trait you got from your parents.
- Which historical figure do you really admire? Why?

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) . . . EPHESIANS 5:8,9

WHAT

In light of what Christ has done for us, we are to live differently. Since we have been brought out of darkness, we ought to live as children of light (Matthew 5:14). In this lesson, we will look at what the fruit of the light consists of.

Goodness

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light . . . EPHESIANS 5:8

Goodness, part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), includes moral excellence, generosity, and the willingness to look beyond oneself and see the needs of others. Left to ourselves, we are not good and we can never be good. But God is good—always good—and His transforming work should be seen in our lives.

How can we reflect God's goodness to others?

2 Righteousness

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 TIMOTHY 2:22

finished work (Philippians 3:8,9). This right standing with God is not because of anything we have done or can do, but because of who He is and what He has done for us. Now, we are also to live uprightly by God's grace and we can honor Him with our lives (1 Timothy 6:11; 1 Peter 2:24).

We are made righteous as we put our faith in Christ's

3 Truth

It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. 3 JOHN 1:3

As God's children, we are to live according to His Word, which is the truth. We are to live in this truth by loving it (Psalm 119:30,97; 1 Corinthians 13:6), speaking it (Psalm 15:2; Ephesians 4:15), and obeying it. But truth is not just an idea—it's a Person.

According to John 14:6, who is this Truth?

How can we pursue

righteousness?

- Why do you think the Bible uses images of light and darkness to show us how we should live? How can we live as children of light?
- What is the difference between righteousness and self-righteousness? What is the only way for us to be righteous?
- Why do you think our lives should reflect goodness, righteousness, and truth? Why can't we just live like the rest of the world?

NOW WHAT

- Are you living in the light? What needs to change so that you can reflect God's light through your life?
- How can you grow in your understanding of what Jesus did for you on the cross this week?
- How can you be a light and a blessing to those around you this week?

Thank God for what He has done for you and how He has saved you.

- Pray that you would always live in the light, and that your life will honor and glorify God.
- Ask God to let your life be a blessing and source of encouragement to many.

Stand Firm

■ What's your favorite action film? Why do you like it so much?

- Who is one of the most active people you know? What does s/he do?
- Tell us about a recent fight you had. What happened?

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. EPHESIANS 6:10-12

WHAT

Spiritual conflict is part of our journey as Christians. It is an opportunity to exercise greater faith in God—who has already won the victory. We are more than conquerors through Christ who strengthens us. We are to stand firm, and the Bible commands us to be strong, protect ourselves, and pray.

1 Be strong in the Lord.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. EPHESIANS 6:10

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. PHILIPPIANS 4:13

More often than not, what we see happening in the physical is only a reflection of what is going on in the spirit. We are to be spiritually strong by depending on God and His grace and power—not on our own ability or capacity. When we humble ourselves before God, He will fight for us.

2 Be protected.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 CORINTHIANS 10:4

God has given us weapons for this spiritual conflict. The Apostle Paul compared these weapons to that of a Roman soldier's (Ephesians 6:14-17), and our greatest weapon is God's Word. God has given us everything we need to overcome Satan's arsenal—which includes lies, doubts, and fears.

How has God's Word helped you deal with lies and accusations?

3 Be prayerful.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. EPHESIANS 6:18

... ¹⁷pray continually; ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17,18

Pray for God's will be to be done in your life, family, church, and nation. Be watchful and persistent in bringing your concerns to God. Prayer is not a suggestion—it is a command for all believers.

 Why should we
"pray continually,"
 and not just once or
every so often?

What is "strength"?

Physically, how
is strength
developed? How
can this be
applied in the
spiritual sense?

- Why does the idea of spiritual conflict seem intimidating to some? As followers of Jesus, why should we be aware of this conflict? How can we guard ourselves from thinking that our battle is against flesh and blood?
- How can you become spiritually strong? How can you protect yourself in this spiritual conflict?
- Why is prayer so important? How can it become a habit and discipline?

NOW WHAT

- How can you become stronger in your faith and your relationship with God this week?
- How can you protect yourself in this spiritual conflict? What lies of the enemy do you need to guard yourself against?
- How can you develop greater spiritual disciplines like prayer and Bible reading every day? Do you have a time and place for this?

- Thank God for the victory He won for us on the cross.
- Pray that you will stand firm and you will be completely devoted to God. Ask God to help you fight the good fight of faith and to be victorious each day.
- JRAYI Pray that you will lead many people to God and help them know Him.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

MATTHEW 16:24

Surrender All is a series of six materials for group discipleship designed to help believers follow Jesus and develop strong faith.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Chosen and Blessed
- Recipients of Mercy and Grace
- Gospel Truth
- Walking Worthy of the Calling
- Becoming More Like Christ
- Stand Firm

