

# TOTAL SURRENDER

GENERATE 2024

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. - Galatians 2:20*

We live in a world where surrender can be a dangerous practice. We think of surrendering as something that you do when you no longer have any reason to keep fighting. But when it comes to surrendering our lives to God, we gain far more than we ever had to lose in the first place. We gain the life-giving relationship that we could never have with God by our own power. We are given an eternity to spend with Him. We gain wisdom and comfort from God, who has an endless supply for His children.

In a world where surrendering seems like a weakness, we want students to see that surrendering to God is the most important thing that they can ever do. Over the course of Total Surrender, we are going to talk about the initial surrender of giving our lives to Christ. But why stop there? Surrendering our lives is not a one-time event, but a daily occurrence that requires faith and focus.

God calls us to surrender our past, present, and future. He calls us to surrender our minds and bodies. He calls us to live as a people set apart in the world, and to live as He has demonstrated. He has called us to totally surrender ourselves to Him in every possible way.

Jesus tells us that whoever loses their life for His sake will ultimately find it (Matthew 10:39). God's desire for us to surrender to Him is not so that we would be left with nothing but rather that whatever we thought we had before could be replaced with the only thing that we will ever truly need: God Himself.

## SESSION 1: SURRENDERING THE DESIRE TO BE YOUR OWN GOD

**WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN:** That all of us have tried to replace God's Lordship in our life with our own sinful desires.

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 10:17-22; Genesis 3:1-13; 2 Kings 17:29; Job 40:1-5; Matthew 22:37-40

**SESSION SNAPSHOT:** Every decision we make will, in turn, make a statement about what holds the highest authority in our lives. Students will be encouraged to look at their own lives and examine their allegiances. Most often, the highest authority in our lives is our flesh and its desires. As people born into sin, this is a default setting for us. But life changes when we totally surrender to God and allow Him to be the highest authority in our life.

## DAY 2- SURRENDERING THE IDEA OF SAVING YOURSELF

**WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN:** That we are incapable of being righteous in our own power. Jesus is the only way that we can have a right relationship with God.

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 2:4-9; Romans 3:23-26; Romans 5:10; John 14:6

**SESSION SNAPSHOT:** Students are so often encouraged by the world to take the matter of their life solely into their own hands. The idea of working for what you want is so ingrained into the culture that we expect hard work to always produce rewards. This is not a good mindset to use when it comes to salvation, though. To truly experience the salvation offered in Jesus Christ, we must surrender the efforts and ideas that we can save ourselves from the penalty of sin.

### **SESSION 3: SURRENDERING YOUR WHOLE SELF**

**WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN:** That giving our lives to God means that we are no longer our own. Everything that we do with our minds and bodies should now strive to be aligned with Scripture.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Hebrews 12:11-15; Luke 9:23; Galatians 5:22-23

**SESSION SNAPSHOT:** Following Christ is a daily occurrence and one that requires both discipline and sacrifice. Part of true spiritual change in our lives is surrendering to the mental and physical changes that God calls us to in His Word. There are things that we must stop doing, as well as things we must start doing. This session is an honest look at what it means to surrender our whole self- mind, body, and soul – to the Lord.

### **SESSION 4: SURRENDERING YOUR "THEN, NOW, AND EVER AFTER"**

**WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN:** That we no longer have to live in shame over our past mistakes. We can surrender our pasts to the Lord and accept His forgiveness. He has so much more for our futures than we could have ever planned for ourselves.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 7:47-50; Isaiah 54:4; Isaiah 61:7; Exodus 32

**SESSION SNAPSHOT:** In this final session, students will find applications to their past, present, and future. Surrendering to God is about giving up the decisions of our past, leaning into Him in the present, and following Him in the future. This is what it looks like to totally surrender.