

Study Series: Absolute Surrender

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Lesson Title: “Absolute Surrender” (pp. 82-95)

Session 7

April 17, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: The condition for obtaining God’s full blessing is absolute surrender to Him.

Focus on this goal:To help adults recognize both their need for absolute surrender to God and their impossibility of doing so in their own power

Key Bible Passage:1 Kings 20:1-4

Before the Session

Bring a quarter (Step 5) and a coffee mug (Step 6) to use during the session.

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Request volunteers state the significance of the dates May 7 and September 2, 1945. (Surrender of Germany and Japan, ending WWII). Ask: Do you think the Allied leaders would have accepted anything other than absolute surrender from these Axis powers? Why? Declare: The world could not begin to rebuild unless the conditions of absolute surrender were met.

Invite responses to the first part of Day One, activity 1 (p. 82). Affirm all responses.

Read the last paragraphs from the study introduction (p. 81) beginning with, “As you work through this text.”

Step 2. God Expects Your Surrender

Invite a volunteer to read 1 Kings 20:1-4. Note the author says Ahab’s response is how all Christians should yield themselves to God. State: Just as Ben-Hadad claimed absolute surrender from Ahab, God claims absolute surrender from us. But unlike Ben-Hadad, God doesn’t expect our absolute surrender so He can take everything from us, but because He has so much He wants to give us.

Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 84). Point out Jesus called for absolute surrender from this man because He loved him.

Relate (or demonstrate) author’s illustration (p. 84) of a pen needing to be absolutely surrendered to the one using it in order to fulfill its purpose.

Step 3. God Accomplishes Your Surrender

Invite a volunteer to read the Day Two pull quote (p. 85).

Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 85).

Read the Day Two paragraph (p. 85) beginning with “This is what we should seek” and guide the group to analyze how the paragraph describes the proper way to obey the command of Philippians 2:12 while relying on the promise of Philippians 2:13.

Note God gives us the desire to surrender. Read from Day Two, activity 2 (p. 86) the honest prayers of His children that God will hear and answer.

Evaluate how knowing and trusting God through Christ can banish our fears of absolute surrender.

Step 4. God Accepts Your Surrender

Declare Jesus is our model of absolute surrender and our assurance that God accepts our surrender, even if it feels weak and feeble.

Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 87). Ask how Jesus could possibly surrender so completely in the face of such pain and suffering. Declare the same Spirit empowering Jesus lives in and empowers us as well.

Invite a volunteer to read the Day Three pull quote (p. 87). Ask: What can we be assured of if we do yield ourselves in absolute surrender? (God will accept it.)

Determine common thoughts and questions likely to arise in our minds when we are occupied with ourselves in the matter of surrender. (Samples: What is this going to do to me? What am I going to lose?) Ask: What would happen to our fears and reservations if we were occupied with God instead, and why?

Step 5. God Maintains Your Surrender

Read the quoted statement from the first paragraph of Day Four (p. 88). Ask participants if they have ever felt that way.

Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (p. 89). Assert: *God’s maintaining our surrender is an absolute truth; the question is whether we will believe that He can and will keep us continually.*

Invite a volunteer to read the Day Four paragraph (p. 89) beginning with “A life of absolute surrender has its difficulties.” Hold up a quarter and state that human responsibility and God’s sovereignty in the arena of absolute surrender are two sides of the same coin. Use remarks in Day Four (pp. 89-90) to elaborate on those two sides.

Step 6. God Blesses When You Surrender

Read the first sentence of Day Five (p. 91). Invite volunteers to share how they know that statement is true.

Display the mug and ask: What’s the only way this mug can be filled with coffee or tea? Declare: Absolute surrender is the only way to empty ourselves so we can receive all the blessing God desires to give us.

Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 92), using the author’s remarks (pp. 92-93) about humility and death to self to add to the discussion. Declare the greatest blessing of absolute surrender is voiced in Colossians 1:27, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Read the Day Five pull quote (p. 93).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Declare: Unlike the surrender of the Axis powers, our absolute surrender to God is a victory, not a defeat. It is not forced on us, but a choice given us by a sovereign, wise, compassionate God. That surrender does result in an occupation, but in restoration rather than reparation. When we absolutely surrender to our Savior, He lives in us through His Spirit, giving us what we need and filling us with blessing.

Urge adults to utilize Day Five, activity 2 (p. 93) and voice that prayer every day this week.

Close the session by thanking God that in Him, absolute surrender is possible.

