



Groups

Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions towards the end of the document.

- These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders.
- Use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation as the needs and culture is different from each group.

Outline

- I. Introduction and Main Scripture Readings
- II. Group Discussion Questions
- III. Prayer for Senior Pastor Search
- IV. The Journey Resources
- V. Support for the Leader

How to Use These Study Guides:

1. **Before the meeting:** Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
2. **Check In:** Begin each meeting with a short time checking in with one another.
3. **Read Scripture:** You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
4. **Ask Questions:** Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with and see how the conversation flows.
5. **End with Prayer:** Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

If your group meets over Zoom:

- Expect to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Be sensitive to attention spans over zoom. Keep meetings shorter than they would be in person.

Group Leader Support:

- Please reach out to your Campus Pastor if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic.
- If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor [Tim Ghali](#) or [Grace Lee](#) from the Group Life team.

Prayer In Transition:

As we enter this new season at Grace Chapel in preparing for the new senior pastor, we invite you to consider the significance of this moment and to incorporate a time of prayer for the transition.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for Sermon given on March 10, 2024
by Pastor Tim Ghali

SURRENDERING OUR HOPE – Mark 13:1-2



I. Introduction

Welcome to week 4 of our Lenten series, Kingdom Come: Thy Will Be Done. We are focusing on Jesus' surrender to God's will in the Garden of Gethsemane, and what it means for us to live lives of surrender. Here is summary of where we have been so far:

- Pastor Jon (week 1): The invitation to surrender our self-preservation is an invitation to live vulnerably and authentically.
- Pastor Bryan (week 2): *"Thy will be done"* means surrendering our certainty, our categories, and our need for control, and exchanging them for curiosity, connection, and confidence in God.
- Pastor Joshua (week 3): The most important thing is to love God and to love others.
- Today, Pastor Tim Ghali (week 4) will focus on the Temple in Jerusalem and preach on what it represents.

Question: Have we become too impressed with the structures, systems, and statuses of life?

Bottom Line: Instead, let us surrender our hope to Jesus, our magnificent Savior.

Let's begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

Main Scripture Readings:

Mark 13:1-2

13 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"

² "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. *"Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."*

John 2:13-22

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ *But the temple he had spoken of was his body.* ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

II. Group Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Tim began the message discussing a movie from the 1990's, *The Shawshank Redemption*. The main character, Andy, was wrongfully imprisoned for murder and is charged to serve two life sentences. Eventually, Andy realizes he is guilty... not for murder but for his selfishness, which leads him to redemption. This movie is a story about hope, surrender and redemption.
 - What are other movies or books with similar themes that left a lasting impression on you? Who was the protagonist and what were they holding hope out for?
2. Read Mark 13:1-2 together as a group.
 - a. Go through the steps of Inductive Bible Study together as a group.
 - **Observation:** What do you observe about the disciples' reactions versus Jesus' response? Who is the audience, and what do we know about them? Why did Mark write this text? What is the surrounding context of when this conversation happened? Check out the previous verses, and the verses following.
 - **Interpretation:** What did Jesus mean? How were his words understood to the original audience? How does his words apply to us today?
 - **Application:** How do these truths in this text change me? What steps can I take to honor God with what I've learned?
 - b. Imagine that you were one of the disciples admiring the Temple when Jesus says, "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."
 - What does the text reveal about Jesus and His character?
 - What does the text reveal about the disciples? About our nature?
3. Pastor Tim Ghali stated that for the ancient Jewish audience, the Temple was the center of religious life. It represented their source of salvation, where sacrifices were made to receive forgiveness for sin. It housed the religious systems where the believers would worship, learn about their faith, history, and provide an identity or status.

When Jesus asks the disciples to see the Temple, he is not just referring to the physical structure, but to understand that it is a vehicle for communing with God, to see and experience the true glory of God and experience God's love.

- Take a moment to consider Grace Chapel as a vehicle: multiple campuses, two worship services, talented pastors, diverse ministries, enthusiastic volunteers, flourishing small groups.

- List the different ways that you interact with our church community.
 - Take a moment to reflect:
 - In what ways could your engagement in these activities overshadow Jesus?
 - Instead of being a vehicle to experience God's glory and God's love, has the church become the source of security and identity that diminishes the Person and work of Christ?
4. Pastor Tim invites us to reflect on what surrendering hope to Jesus means during this Lent. He suggests 3 practices for practicing daily surrender:
- *Audit your Soul:* Where is your joy? Where is your fear? Where is your hope?
 - *Grow in Your Surrender:* What are you fighting for or with? What are you surrendering to today? Consider the spiritual practices of prayer, Scripture reading or fasting
 - *Find your Joy in the Lord:* When you discover where your hope is found, that is also where you will find your joy

Discuss with your group which one of these practices will help you to surrender more to Jesus during this season of Lent.

5. In closing, spend some time repenting for the subtle and overt ways you have allowed the church and your engagement to overshadow Jesus. As a group, thank Jesus for becoming the new temple in His crucifixion and resurrection. Pray that the Holy Spirit would empower everyone to practice daily surrender to experience true hope in Christ alone.

Take Home Message:

All of our modern society's structures, systems and even churches will one day be destroyed. After all, our life here on earth is temporary. Our true citizenship is in heaven. During this season of Lent, let us spend time in reflection, prayer and discussion on what it means for us to surrender our hope to Jesus, to make him the new center of our lives.

Let's Pray

III. The Journey



We're all on a journey. Where is yours taking you?

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it is good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus. It comes from putting them into practice.

Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The **with-God life** of our personal habits and routines;
- The **with-others life** of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The **for-the-world life** that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

Discipleship Planning Tool

We invite your group to [take the assessment](#) and to spend a session to share about the practice and perspective you chose to focus on for the next three months.

IV. Support for the Leader

These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader make connections from the message to their group with both insights from the Biblical text and opportunities in the life of our church.

Teaching Points:

- Surrender is not defeat. Surrender, in our sermon series, is the choice to receive and accept God's will for our lives
- For Jews, the Temple was the center of religious life. It was where they worshipped and learned about their faith. The Temple also represented their source of salvation – where they brought sacrifices to receive forgiveness for their sins
- Jesus replaces the temple. Now Jesus becomes the center of our worship. By his death on the cross and the forgiveness of our sins, we can have a personal relationship with God. We don't need to have a church, a pastor, or even a small group to commune with God. If we can surrender our hope to Jesus, we can speak with God through prayer.