



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.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for Sermon given on March 24, 2024

by Pastor Bryan Wilkerson

SURRENDERING OUR POWER – Mark 11-15



Prayer In Transition:

As we enter this transition of senior pastors at Grace Chapel, we invite you to consider the significance of this moment and to incorporate a time of prayer for Pastor Bryan, Pastor Joshua, and Grace Chapel.

I. Introduction

Welcome to Palm Sunday, the day our surrendered savior made a triumphal entry into our hearts, into our church, into our world. For six weeks now we've been considering what it means to pray "*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done.*" We've acknowledged the difficulties we have with the notion of surrender. It sounds like weakness. It sounds like giving up. It sounds like losing. It's just another word for defeat. So on this Palm Sunday, let's take one more walk through that holy week, and see what we can learn from Jesus "*Thy will be done*".

Questions: What does it mean to surrender our power? How do we do it? What does it look like?

Bottom Line: Praying "Thy will be done" means surrendering our power, privilege, and preferences in the service of others

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

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Main Scripture Readings:Mark 11:1-3

11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

Mark 11:7-10

⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!^[a]”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”^[b]

¹⁰ “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Zechariah 9:10

¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River^[a] to the ends of the earth.

Mar 14:43-51:

With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸ “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” ⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

⁵¹ A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him,

Mark 14:55-61

⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹ Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

Mark 15:1-5

15 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

² “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

Mark 15:37

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

Luke 23:46

⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”^[a] When he had said this, he breathed his last.

1Peter 2:20-24

²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? *But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.* ²¹ *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”^[a]

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

II. Group Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Bryan began the message with a quote from U2's front man, Bono, who said in his memoir, *Surrender*,
"I am persuaded by the thought that the only way to be victorious is to surrender."
 - What is your immediate reaction to this statement of surrender? Feel free to share other quotes related to surrender that caused you to pause/react to it.
 - How do you reconcile victory with surrender?

2. Pastor Bryan pointed out that although Mark was not one of the disciples, he may have been a witness to Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Read Mark 14:43-51. Imagine being of the disciples at the scene.

- What details are grabbing your attention?
- What are your senses feeling (sight, smell, sound, touch, taste)?
- How would you have reacted?
- What would be going through your mind?

3. When Pilate asks Jesus to respond to his accusers, Jesus offers no defense.

The Chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. (Mark 15:3-5)

- Why do you think Pilate was amazed at Jesus' silence?
- How would the crowd have perceived his silence?
- What were the disciples thinking?
- Pastor Bryan said: The most powerful man in the room is the one who's not talking; the one in chains. How do you explain Jesus' power in this scene?

4. In his book *Surrender*, Bono describes his decision to surrender to the call of God in his life. "*At the moment of surrender, I folded to my knees; I did not notice the passers by, and they did not notice me.*" Ask your group if anyone would like to share the moment they surrendered to God.

5. We all have some degree of personal power: power over our time, finances or physical strength. We decide how to manage and use these resources. Some of us have power at work, in the community or in the church. Are we exercising that power for the common good; in service to others or simply to advance our own interests?

- Think of some actionable steps you can take to use your power for the good of others

6. We all have certain advantages because of who we are. This may include our ethnicity, physical stature, gender, family of origin, talent or intellect.
 - Spend a few minutes reflecting what your own advantages might be.
 - How can leverage these advantages in service to others?
7. We all make decisions about our preferences ever day. When someone else is involved (e.g., spouse, children, colleagues, neighbors) we have the opportunity to surrender our preferences to help others.
 - What ways can you surrender your preferences this week? Who would you be giving over to?
8. As the God's one and only son, Jesus had the authority and the power to save himself from the cross. But he chose not to. Instead he surrendered himself, to save others; to save us. Commentators have pointed out that it wasn't the nails the held him to the cross, it was love.
 - What does that mean to you?
 - When you surrender your power, privilege or preferences to others, do you do it out of love for them? Or are there other motives or reasons for your surrender?

Take Home Message:

Surrender isn't passive. It doesn't mean we "give up" our power and privileges and preferences and become helpless. It means we *give them over to God*, who gave them to us in the first place, that we might use them in the service to others.

By surrendering his power and privileges as the Son of God, by surrendering his preferences as a human being, Jesus accomplished our salvation. And now he calls us to follow him into a life of love and surrender for the sake of others.

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.

The 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:

- Jesus didn't give up his life, he gave it OVER. It was a decision, and act of the will. Jesus surrendered to the will of the father and we are called to do the same.
- Jesus wasn't a victim of other peoples' evil. He was in charge all along.