

"Joy In The Everyday: The Unexpected Offering"

Growth Group Guide

July 26, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

Our title "The Unexpected Offering" means giving ourselves to God totally in a life of ongoing dependence. Without this definition, what might you have thought "an unexpected offering" would be that gives everyday joy?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer. Give thanks to God that Jesus himself was our Beloved model in joyfully offering ourselves to God in daily, total dependence so our joy and the joy of others is filled full.

Ephesians 5:2 ESV. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Psalm 54:6-7 CEV. I will bring a gift and offer a sacrifice to you, LORD [out of devotion, gratitude and a willing heart]. I will praise your name because you are good. You have rescued me from all my troubles, and my own eyes have seen my enemies fall.

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. Forgiveness is a cleansing work like sterilizing a jar before canning. It's needed so the good stuff can be put inside us, a new spirit joined to the Holy Spirit. How does this expand your view of being saved? How does it change your view of yourself as a Christian?
2. We access the good stuff by making the one-time decision to cut from the flesh and depend totally on God as our source for living. However, most of us have lived so long dependent on our flesh, it may be hard to switch sources (Spirit instead of flesh). What sort of things keep us from cutting from the flesh as a source?
3. One major issue for people is that their view of God affects their trust in Him. What sort of wrong views of God keep us from giving ourselves entirely to Him? Where do they come from and how are they changed?
4. Read Luke 9:23-24. Based on these verses, how would you describe the one-time decision to depend on God and the ongoing life of dependence on Him? Now Read Romans 5:10 and Galatians 5:24. What do these verses add to this conversation?
5. Read Philippians 2:17-18. What stands out to you in these verses? Why?
6. Read Psalm 51:16-17. What sacrifices and offerings does David believe God would prefer not to have? What would He prefer? Remember to think of broken not as fractured but like a broken horse. One fully dependent on its master for everything.
7. Read Romans 12:1 AMP. What more does this add to what David shared in Psalm 51:16-17? What is God really wanting us to sacrificially offer to Him? How does fleshly versus spiritual living play into this?

8. When it comes to sacrifice and offering, we can subdivide our lives and give portions to God (piece meal parts to Him and not others). Why do you think we do this? Why is it counterproductive?
9. In the verses we just looked at, sacrifice and offering are different. What is the difference, and why do you think it is important?
10. Sacrifice and offering often seem like a burden and duty. In Philippians 2:17-18, we see the incredible picture of a group of people offering themselves to live in dependence on God and experiencing joy. What do you think that was like? How might you/we pray and participate in seeing that happen.

WALK *(Living out God's purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Ongoing dependence on God in all things is a sacrificial offering that produces joy, not a burden.** Has this One Big Idea given you a different perspective on making sacrifices for God? Is it possible you might have been trying to make sacrifices for Him and missed the joy altogether? You've missed feeling His delight in you and the enjoyment of His work being done in and through you? If so, take this moment to let Him disciple you away from fleshly sacrifices. The ones that keep you still in control of your life and missing the joy and life by the Spirit. There's no condemnation, just pivot towards total dependence on God, being at His full disposal, and life predominantly lived by life in the Spirit. Talk to Him, confess it all, repent, move into full dependence on Him and His Spirit within. Joy awaits!

WORLD *(Embracing God's heart for others)*

Last week we had a special in-person interview with Pastor Aury Villa of Healing Souls Church, our missions partner from the Dominican Republic. God is working in profound ways as Aury and his ministry team watch God expand their outreach to families, children, and sister churches in their area. Three areas of growth Aury shared with us: 1)The church building has been updated to include air conditioning. A much needed help on hot summer Sunday mornings, and a benefit has been an increase in those attending services. 2)The children's program that is similar to a 1/2 day of school is growing yearly. This gives Aury and his team an open door to visit the parents of the children, some of whom may not attend church, and begin a relationship with them that will hopefully lead to one-on-one prayer, discipleship opportunities, or sharing the Good News of Jesus. 3)Along with these blessings, 6 other churches are being overseen by Healing Souls Church. This means training pastors, leaders, and others for kingdom work and seeing God's church growing in the Dominican Republic! Please pray for Aury for spiritual energy and strength as he works in all these different areas of local ministry as well as with his radio show. Pray for strong grounded leaders in all the sister churches as well as at Healing Souls Church. Finally, pray for the healing of Aury's wife's back.

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