



I Surrender All – to Love

November 6, 2025

The Big Idea

Best Practice

Surrender your life to the love that loves you even at your worst moments.

Passages

Ephesians 3:17-18; John 21:1-3, 4-17

Group Goal

When never like to disappoint others or fail to live up to our own standards. But so often we do. Afterwards, we live in the shadow of shame and regret. What gives us hope and redemption is that Jesus meets us in our failures and disappointments. He offers us restoration and a new purpose through his unconditional love.

This enables us to recover and move on. His love can even spark new excitement and enthusiasm to love others in the same way we've been loved. That's the power of His love – so don't resist or avoid it. Surrender to His love and allow your heart to soak in it.

Group Talk

For Starters

What hobby or activity do you tend to do when you're stressed, and just want to step away from the daily grind?

To Discuss

Second-Chances Fishing (John 21:1-3, 4-17)

(3) Peter returns to fishing after the debacle of the crucifixion. What does this reveal about how we often react to failure or shame?

What do you tend to "go back to"? Can you think of a time when you retreated to something familiar after a personal loss or disappointment?

(5-6) Notice the disciples don't recognize Jesus until after the miraculous catch. Why do you think we sometimes struggle to recognize Jesus's presence in our darkest moments?

(9) Jesus had already prepared breakfast before the disciples arrived. What does this tell us about how Jesus anticipates our needs even before we come to him?

How does this affect your impulse to surrender – or resist?

(7) Observe how eager Peter is to get to Jesus, even despite his past failure. What holds you back from "jumping into the water" and running to Jesus after you've failed Him?

(15-17) Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him, paralleling Peter's three denials. What is it about this act that highlights Jesus' love?

How might this demonstration change how we approach those who have hurt or disappointed us?

Jesus gives Peter a mission in light of this affirmation. How does surrendering to Jesus's love lead to new purpose?

What "mission" might Jesus be calling you to move into after a season of failure or disappointment?

Loving Generously

How does being forgiven and restored by Jesus influence your generosity?

In Matthew 10:8, Jesus instructs his disciples, "Freely you have received; freely give." What specific gifts or blessings have you freely received from God that you find yourself most compelled to share generously with others?

What practical steps could our life group take to create a culture where generosity flows naturally out of our experiencing Jesus' love rather than from a duty, guilt or sense of obligation?

Next Steps

"Shore to Shore" Prayer Commitment

- Provide each person with a small card or paper "fish" to write on.
- Ask everyone to write down one specific area of disappointment or failure they need to surrender to Jesus this week (just a word or phrase is sufficient).
- On the reverse side, have them write one practical way they'll respond to Jesus' love and restoration.
- Keep it with you, then bring back next week to share.

Prayer Focus

Silent reflect & bring before Jesus your own empty nets—the disappointments, failures, or unmet expectations you carry. Where have you labored without seeing what you hoped for?

Pray: "Lord Jesus, like Peter, we sometimes return to what is familiar when we face disappointment. We cast our nets again and again, often coming up empty. Yet you stand on the shore, calling to us, offering direction and abundance where we see only scarcity. Help us to recognize your voice even in our disappointment."

Now hear Jesus ask you, '_____, do you love me?' amid your disappointment.

In this brief silence, respond to him from your heart.

Leadership Tip

Take Time to Care: Your group may feel that there isn't enough time in the meeting for everything. This is common! There is always more that can be shared during the meeting. If it is appropriate, see if you can follow up after the meeting is over, if people would like to stay and continue with a particular discussion. Or call and contact each other in some way over the next few days to express your appreciation, concern, or support. Keep loving and caring throughout the week.