

# Surrender

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it.” Matthew 16:24-25

Please note: This devotional was created for students to use on a group mission trip to Mexico in December 2021. We hope you find it helpful in growing your walk with the Lord now, regardless of your age or location.

## **The Whole Armor of God**

Ephesians 6:10-18

### **The Armor of God**

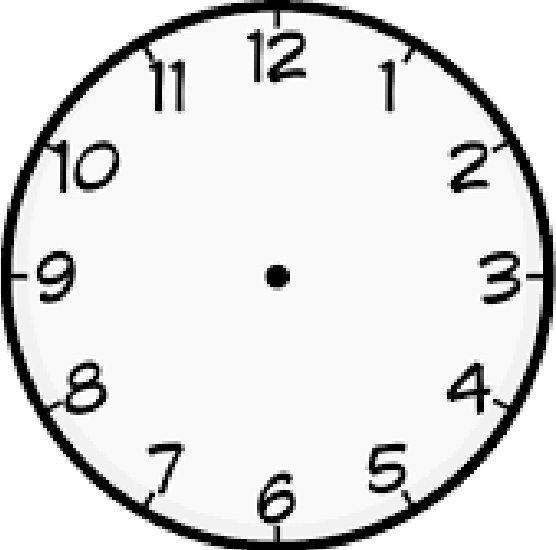
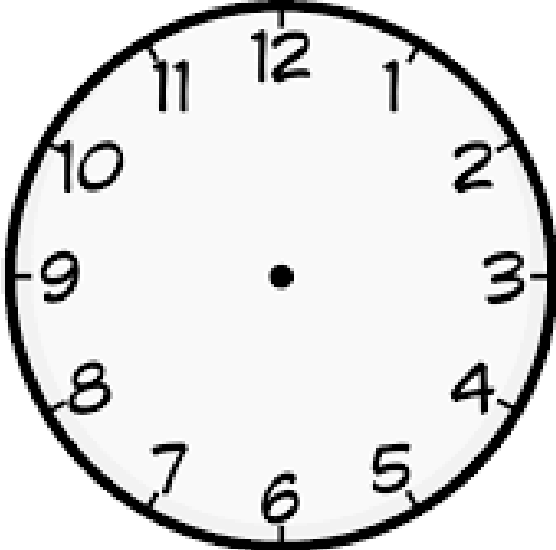
**10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

## Day 1-Surrender your Schedule

We are called to surrender our lives when we receive the free gift of salvation through Jesus. To have a deep relationship with Him, we also need to surrender daily. We need to surrender our prideful, sinful nature. We need to surrender our daily plans to make room for God to interrupt them, cancel them, totally change them. Is your daily schedule so full that there is no room for God? Is God crammed into a tiny five-minute quiet time slot? Are you asking to walk alongside the Lord daily? Are you asking to see those around you through His eyes? Are you asking for Divine encounters and for boldness to act for the Lord when they happen?

Is there room for God in your day-to-day life, or are you a slave to your schedule?

Write out your typical week day schedule.

AM	PM
 An analog clock face with numbers 1 through 12 arranged in a circle. The clock is currently blank, with no hands shown.	 An analog clock face with numbers 1 through 12 arranged in a circle. The clock is currently blank, with no hands shown.

Read Galatians 2:11-21---Focus Verse 2:21

In this passage, Paul is upset with Cephas because he is being a hypocrite. He is acting one way with one group of people, and acting differently with another group. Paul is saying we shouldn't do that. We should be sold out for the Lord no matter who we are around or where we are. Reread verse 20 and ask yourself the big question:

**BIG Question:**

**Am I living for myself, or am I living a life surrendered to the Lord because He lives in me? What does my daily schedule say?**

**Action:**

Spend some time in prayer over your daily schedule. Ask God to show you anything in your daily life that is not pleasing to Him.

What does He want you to change or remove?

Where does He want you to intentionally spend more time with Him?

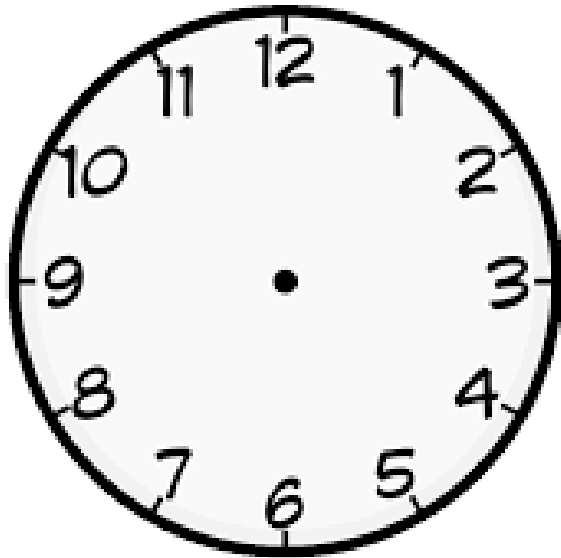
If there are changes you know you need to make to your schedule right now, go ahead and make those changes in the blank schedules below.

If you're not sure yet, keep praying for God to reveal His will to you. Be willing to make a surrender to Him even if it hurts. Remember that surrendering to the Lord is where true freedom is found.

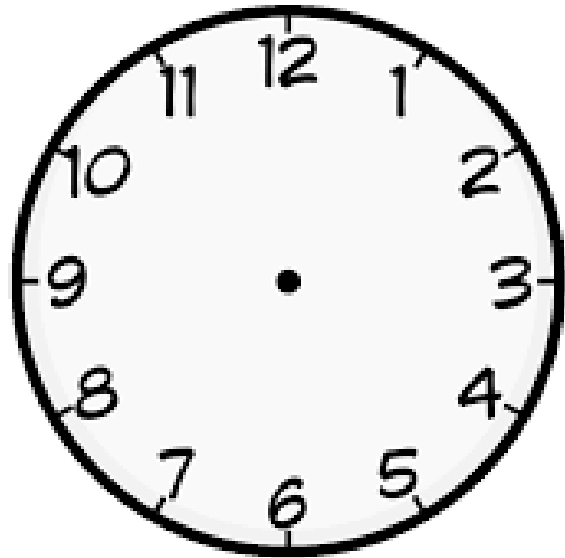
2 Corinthians 3:17 Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Rewrite your typical daily schedule with the changes God wants you to make.

AM



PM



## Day 2-Surrender your Passions

Read 1 John 2:15-17

What do you love? What are you passionate about? Is it of the world, or from God?  
What are some of the things you like or want?

It is easy to get caught up in school, work, sports, a game, etc.

You probably know adults or other students who are very devoted and passionate about something. Who comes to mind? Maybe you don't know them very well, but you know their favorite football team, or you know all about their work, or a club or organization they are part of. Maybe every time you see them, they show you pictures of their dog or kids. You don't always have to know someone very well to know what they are passionate about or what they are sold out for.

Can you imagine what would happen if they were that passionate or sold out for the Gospel?!

What about you? What would people say you are passionate about?

**BIG Question:**

**Can people tell you love Jesus by looking at your life?**

Circle an answer:

YES

NO

NOT SURE

Why or why not?

Sometimes good things are taken too far. The things we are passionate about are not necessarily bad, but if they are more important to us than serving the Lord, that's a problem.

**Action:**

Check your heart. List the things you are passionate about. Pray over this list. Is there anything God wants you to add or remove? Are you using your passions for the Lord or to make yourself feel good?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their list of passions and reflections.

## **Day 3-Surrender your Fears**

Read Matthew 11—Focus Verses 28-30 and Philippians 4—Focus Verses 4-7

What fears and worries do you carry around? These can hinder your ability to share the Gospel and have a close relationship with God.

Worrying = not trusting God

Do you believe the God who created the universe is big enough to take care of your problems?

Do you believe Jesus is strong enough for you to cast your burdens onto? He is powerful enough to cause the blind to receive their sight, the lame to walk, those with leprosy to be cleansed, the deaf to hear, the dead to rise, and the poor are told the good news. (Matthew 11:5) Can he take care of your worries too? Yes!

The Bible tells us to worry about nothing (Phil 4).

Fear is running wild in our world right now. Do you think the Lord is pleased with this?

Even little kids are experiencing fear like never before. "Mrs. Snider, can I have a pass to get out of recess? I have social anxiety, and being around other kids is hard for me." (I didn't write the recess pass, but that doesn't mean I haven't ever struggled with worrying.)

I used to worry about my children. I didn't want them to get hurt. I worried so much, I would rarely let them go with other people. I didn't want them to ride in a car with someone else. What if they got in a wreck and I wasn't there? God reminded me that He loves my children too. He created them. They are his. He wants what is best for them. My fears were holding my children back. They missed out on a lot of great things because I was afraid to let them go.

**BIG Question:**

**How are your fears holding you back?**

What great things are you missing out on because you're afraid something might go wrong? What "what ifs" are floating around in your mind?

Surrender those worries, thoughts, and fears to the Lord. If they pop back into your head, Surrender them again. 1 Peter 5:7 says we should cast all our cares on the Lord because he cares about us. Jesus wants to take our burdens on! (Matthew 11:30). He can give us rest and peace instead of worry and fear.



When I imagine surrendering something to the Lord, I picture myself placing it at the feet of Jesus. I pray and give it over to him.

**Action:**

Write or draw a picture to represent the fears you need to surrender. Be sure to label specific fears, worries, or "what ifs".

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to draw or write their response to the action step.

Spend time in prayer to surrender your fears. Ask God to show you any fears you have and how they have been holding you back from having true freedom in Christ. Give them over to him and pray for the strength and courage to not pick them back up again. You have the Holy Spirit in you. He's not afraid!

## Day 4-Make me your Vessel

Read Luke 5:-36-38

**36** He also told them a parable: “No one tears a patch from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. Otherwise, not only will he tear the new, but also the piece from the new garment will not match the old. **37** And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, it will spill, and the skins will be ruined. **38** No, new wine is put into fresh wineskins.

Most of us don't know a lot about wine, but we probably understand a little about milk. Imagine someone had a pail of delicious farm-fresh milk they wanted to give you. You would need to find a container to put the milk in. Would you reach in the fridge and pull out an old milk carton? No. The old milk would ruin the new milk. We have all smelled, or maybe even tasted spoiled milk. We wouldn't want to add fresh milk to that.

We need to clean out the “old” so God can fill us with the new things he wants.

We will be singing the song New Wine a lot this week. The song says,

Make me your vessel  
Make me an offering  
Make me whatever  
You want me to be  
I came here with nothing  
But all you have given me  
Jesus bring new wine out of me

A vessel is a container. What kind of container are you?

Are you an old one full of sour milk? Do you need to be cleaned up to be made ready for something new and better?

Are you an empty vessel ready to be filled with God's will for your life?

### **Action:**

Spend time in prayer. Are you ready to be God's vessel? Do you want to be used however he wants?

## Day 5-Surrender your Pride

Pride. Did you cringe when you read the title? I did!

When the Bible talks about the sin of pride, it is meaning a high or exalted attitude. It's the same as arrogance, thinking you are better than someone, or too good for something.

There are tons of verses in the Bible about pride, and they make it very clear that pride is not good. Let's look at these verses and passages today:

Proverbs 16:5

Proverbs 26:12

Romans 2:1-11—Focus Verse-11

Romans 12:16

Summary:

- Pride is a sin. God hates pride.
- You shouldn't think you are wise or awesome or better than someone else.
- We should not judge. That's the Lord's job. Leave the judging to Jesus. When we judge others, we do it out of pride because we think we are better than they are.
- God does not have favorites. That annoying person at church...God loves them just as much as he loves you.

If you are feeling convinced, or maybe a little beaten down right now, there is hope! Just keep reading!

James 4:1-12—Focus Verses 6 & 10

John 3:22-36—Focus Verse 3:30

1 Cor 13:4

Philippians 2:5-11

Summary:

- If we humble ourselves before the Lord, he will exalt us (lift us up in his way and his timing).
- We can resist sin by submitting to the Lord. (Surrendering)
- Jesus is above all. Jesus must increase, but I must decrease.
- Love isn't proud or arrogant. Love is patient and kind.

God has called us to be humble. He wants us to learn from Jesus and the humble examples around us.

Sadly, there are many Christians who are arrogant and put themselves on a pedestal. They have exalted themselves. Our sin nature wants us to show how awesome we are, but God's Word says to do the opposite. We are to be humble.

**BIG Question:**

**Am I trying to make myself famous, or make Jesus famous?**

**Action:**

Spend time in prayer. Ask God to reveal any areas in your life where you have been prideful. How can you be more humble?