

## Weekly Study

### Surrender in a Control Freak World | Ethan Matott | August 28, 2022

*\*A note to leaders: there have been two additional questions added to the “grow” and “move” portions of the Weekly entitled ‘Dive Deeper’. This is designed for you to help guide your group into deeper relationship with Jesus and each other, and take an additional step for owning their relationship with Jesus throughout their week.*

#### START

Go around and check in with your group with the following questions:

- Fall is almost here! What are you most looking forward to?
- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday’s sermon?
- What did that thing teach you about God? About yourself?

#### SHARE

On Sunday Ethan continued our “Right Side Up” series with a powerful message about surrender. He showed us that in all of the four gospels, there is a common message that Jesus teaches his followers: If you work hard to save your life, you’ll lose it; if you lose your life for His sake, you’ll find it. In other words, surrender your ways to His and you’ll find the abundant life you are looking for. He walked us through ten different areas of our lives to surrender, reminding us that Jesus never asks us to surrender that which He has not already surrendered, and that His ultimate surrender makes ours possible in both the eternal decisions and small daily decisions.

#### GROW

#### **Read Romans 10:9.**

When faced with the reality of our sins, we all either hide it or beat ourselves up over it. When that happens, shame grows over it. Shame has been shown to be the most pervasive human emotion and it forces us to want to hide from God, ourselves and each other. It may seem fun in the moment to numb your pain with “in-the-moment” decisions, but we can all agree that the shame that follows in the wake of it is not worth it in the long run. God is not a killjoy in the sky trying to take the fun away from our lives; He created us and is more for our joy than we are. He knows exactly the ways that we should operate to live the most abundant life possible, but it takes surrendering our lives and our sin to Him, trusting that He is kind and He is not One to shame us for our sin. Shame never bears good fruit because it doesn’t come from the Holy Spirit — it comes from the devil, who is seeking to keep a large distance between you and the

One who loves and knows you most. By surrendering your life to him and with it, the sins that are intent on keeping you in a position of shame, God will be faithful to bring healing and freedom to your life in miraculous ways.

- When faced with the reality of your sin, are you more inclined to hide and ignore, or beat yourself up about it?
- Until now, what has been your belief about God's thoughts and emotions towards you in light of the things you struggle with? How would that change if you knew that He loves you and desires you to live in peace and joy and fulfillment?
- *Dive Deeper:* Take time at the end of your group to allow for your group members to respond to the gospel. No need to make it formal or over-the-top, just simply tell them that Jesus loves them, He wants to lift them out of their sin and shame and that all who believe in their heart and confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord will be saved. If anyone in your group makes that decision, connect them with your group coach so that someone on staff can be in touch with them and help support them through the beginning of their walk with Jesus!

## M O V E

### **Read Romans 8:1-2.**

Until you get to a place of surrendering your life and your sin to Jesus, surrendering everything else can be difficult. Once you do make the most important decision of your life — surrendering yourself to Jesus — and experience His love and His good plans for you, a trusting relationship begins to take root and laying down everything else becomes a little bit easier.

Idolatry is one large area that encompasses many of the other things that Ethan talked about on Sunday. We tend to think of idolatry as an issue that the people in the Old Testament dealt with; however, idolatry is simply anything that we worship other than God and let preoccupy more of our minds and hearts than Him. If you're surrendered to Jesus then these idols have no power in your life, but as soon as we set a disproportionate amount of our affection on anything other than Him — even good things — it becomes an idol and a tool that the enemy can use to distract you from your relationship with God. Whether it's a relationship, your time, energy, resources, pain, plans or something else, it all belongs to Him and He can be trusted to keep all of the details of your life in the proper order.

- Do you believe that surrender leads to freedom? Why or why not?

- Of the things that Ethan talked about on Sunday, which idol in your life do you find to be the most difficult to surrender? Why?
- *Dive Deeper*: Find someone in your group and commit to holding each other accountable in the journey of surrender. Usually, it's best to find someone who doesn't struggle with the same things as you when it comes to getting free from the things holding you down. Leaders, encourage your group members that this is nearly impossible to do it by yourself, and keep your ears open for people who have gotten freedom in certain areas and encourage them to team up with someone who needs freedom in the same places they have already found it. We believe in you wholeheartedly!

## P R A Y

Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into separate groups to share more freely.

- Ask the Lord to remind everyone in your group that where the spirit of the Lord is there is freedom, and that in Christ there is no condemnation.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal places where you are grasping for control too tightly and that He would give you the courage to surrender those places to Him. In place of those idols and sin, ask the Lord to fill you up with the fruit of the spirit and an increased desire to know Him more clearly this week.