



## Week Leading up to 04.10.22: What does Surrender Look Like

**Leaders:** If using Option 1 below, let the group know that you will be reading/listening only to a section of the Gospel reading today that centers around the crucifixion. The audio is from Fr. Mike Schmitz, Day 321 Bible in a Year.

*\*{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}*

**Let's Begin:** Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

### Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Option 1: Read or listen to a section of the Gospel: **Lk 23:13-56**; audio can be found at link below (from 7:01-11:19 minutes)

Option 2: Read or listen to the entire reading **Lk 22:14—23:56**; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeOqtYjaUUE> (start at 2:19 to 11:19 minutes) be sure to allow extra time for this since it is so long.

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer: *Dear God, because You love us so dearly, You allowed Your Son to come to us and be put to death for our salvation. Jesus, You willingly sacrificed Yourself for us. This is utterly beyond our understanding! Help us to never forget the depth of Your sacrifice and what total surrender looks like so that we, too, may surrender fully to Your call. In Your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. On Palm Sunday we hear the story of Jesus' death and total sacrifice for us. Does Jesus' sacrifice cause you any discomfort? How so?
2. Does His sacrifice offer you comfort? How so?

**YouTube Video:** What Does Surrender Actually Look Like with Fr. Schmitz (8:18 min) <https://youtu.be/aabwei87sQM>

### Reflection or Discussion Questions:

3. Did the video change your perception of Jesus as Lord - a Lord to give dominion over everything in your life, granting Him full access to your heart? What do you find helps you to surrender more fully to God?
4. When we offer something to God, it gives God access to it. Allowing access says we trust in God's love for us and for those whom we love. Have you ever placed anyone you love or a relationship under the dominion of God? Did this change anything? How so?
5. Have you thought of asking God to have dominion over a particular sin in your life? When we turn something over to God, does that mean we no longer need to worry or work to overcome it?
6. Have you ever offered something to God wanting Him to take it away and He did not? Did this make you doubt Him or your relationship with Him?
7. In the video, Fr. Mike Schmitz says, "Nothing given to God is ever wasted." What do you think/feel this means?

### Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- In prayer consider what you may be holding back from God. Offer God full access to what you are holding back, even if nothing comes to mind. Let him know that you wish Him to enter all aspects of your life and heart. Be mindful in the days that follow...pay attention to what happens when you hold nothing back from Him.
- Ask God to have dominion over a particular sin in your life. Ask Him to give you the perseverance to overcome this sin and go to confession.

**Closing Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, there are so many areas in our lives that we still hold back from you. Help identify these areas and our sins so that we can more fully surrender to Your will. We beg for Your mercy that You so willingly wish to give us. Shower us with Your eternal grace to have the humility to fully offer all those who we love, our gifts, and our sins to You. Please offer your personal intentions for those you would like to pray for now....Individual prayer intentions are offered here...Lord, we raise these intentions to Your merciful heart, all those said and those left unsaid. We truly wish to give You full dominion over our lives and grow in an ever-deeper relationship with You! Help us to walk with You this week, this most Holy week, slowly and intentionally. Teach us Your understanding of true sacrifice and the vastness of Your love for us. May Your example remain forever in the very depth of our souls. In gratitude. Amen.*

**{Optional additional Readings}** Sunday Reading 1: **Is 50:4-7** Sunday Reading 2: **Phil 2:6-11**