

Week 4 – Surrender, October 20, 2024

Play Video for Week 4 Unfinished Surrender. Share reflections from the video . Then, take to prayer before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at thevillagechristianchurch.com/unfinished/.

Opening Discussion Questions

1. Describe a time God called you to do something that seemed crazy or impossible for you to do.
2. As God began to work through you to do the impossible, what did you find the most surprising?
3. How did this experience prepare you for the next time God calls you to do something impossible?

Further Discussion From Scripture

Read the following Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the provided space before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

GOD ASKS US TO SURRENDER TO HIM...FULLY

“Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.”

The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.”

So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, Isaac turned to Abraham and said, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“We have the fire and the wood,” the boy said, “but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?”

“God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!”

“Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.”

Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the Lord will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

Then the angel of the Lord called again to Abraham from heaven. “This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.” – Genesis 22:2-18

1. Abraham has waited so long for a son, and now God asks him to be willing to sacrifice his son Isaac on the alter of the Lord. How would you expect Abraham to react? Why doesn’t he object? What emotions are going through your head and your heart right now after reading this passage?
2. It is tempting for Abraham (or any of us) to believe that anything given to us by God is OURS, not His. How does this passage remind you of things in your own life that you maybe do not view as completely surrendered to God but still as “yours”?
3. What is preventing you from surrendering to God and His plan for your life, even though it seems UNFINISHED to you? What is preventing you from being fully surrendered to Him and trusting Him with faith beyond the horizon?

4. Do you believe God can and WILL do something IN you and THROUGH you during this Unfinished season? How do you think God is seeking to use you and your resources in such a way that brings glory to Him and shines light on His name, even when you may not know the specific path ahead? He is asking you to trust Him and surrender to Him. Will you?

JESUS GAVE IT ALL FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. – Hebrews 12:1-3

5. To run the race with Christ means committing to it and not growing weary. Jesus gave His life for us because of the joy set before Him in heaven. When you think about your responses to that type of sacrifice and Jesus' call upon our lives to run the race as we are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses," how does that influence how you are thinking about your Unfinished commitment and the impact it might have?
6. The fact that Jesus humbled Himself by succumbing to a human death and becoming the ultimate sacrifice for our sins demands a response from us. What will your response be?
7. Surrendering your life to Jesus is not just about agreeing to follow Him; it is about actually following Him, following His example and living as He did. If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say you are surrendered to? Would that statement be true about you? Or is there something that needs to be explained or modified as you think about this Unfinished season ahead?