

Session 9: "I surrender"

Aim: To explore the move from surrendering habits and desires to God, to surrendering our entire lives to God. Understanding that to be in the most intimate relationship with God, requires us to surrender our whole life to Him.

Note: Before participants come in, the tiles from previous session will be already laid out in a path already on the floor, with a wooden cross at the end of the path. Participants encouraged to take off their shoes when entering.

Scripture: "Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing.'" – Jn 5:19

Big Group Activity

Stimuli 1: The Path of Surrender story (attachment 1) (read out)

Leader explains why the story is read again this session – that this time, the focus is 'not so much on the letting go of the rocks, but on the walking of the path towards Jesus,' to surrender our lives to Him.

Stimuli 2: Audio Interview with Brother Nihal D'Silva (Video attached as separate file)

An audio interview with suitable images and headings will be played, that explores the theme of life surrender in five key areas.

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-zSowbfFOg>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwJ69wTOu8g>

Group activity: Reflection PowerPoint (Separate) and *The Real Path of Surrender*

A reflective PowerPoint will be looped that aims to help participants reflect on and digest the previous video interview. This is quiet time.

After suitable time, participants are encouraged to, one at a time, walk the path made by the tiles, and reflect on a life surrendered to God. Upon reaching the end of the path, participants sit in a circle around the cross, and continue their own reflection / journaling.

Soft background music: *Giving it all to you.*

SESSION 9
I SURRENDER



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Aim: To explore the move from surrendering habits and desires to God, to surrendering our entire lives to God. Understanding that to be in the most intimate relationship with God, requires us to surrender our whole life to Him.

Song: *Giving it all to You*

You are the author life
Just one word and I am free
You are the saviour and I
Need your grace to rescue me

I surrender

*We're giving it all to you
We're giving it all to you
Our hearts cry out
We need you now
We're giving it all to you*

You are the fountain of life
Just one drop and I am filled
You are my joy and desire
I resign to your will

I surrender

Chorus

Just one drop and we are filled
Just one drop and we are filled
Just one word and we are free

Chorus

Final Prayer: United in Prayer

CCC Melbourne prayed for the two young pilgrims as requested by the National Office, preceded by the below thought:

What does unite mean? Often we think only of separate pieces forming a while. But what about uniting through a prayer, a song, a vision, a purpose? How does World Youth Day unite? How might you unite with the world today?

Small Group Activity

How did letting go of your 'tile' item, go throughout the last fortnight?

The 5 topics covered in the video interview:

- 1) Where is God missing in your life?
- 2) What are your "guitars"?
- 3) Surrender ≠ Sacrifice. = receiving
- 4) Time - the most precious thing to surrender
- 5) Emptying to be filled

World of World Youth Day [Letter from Bernadette Kreutzer – National WYD Office]

We have had a special request from Loretta Brinkman from the Diocese of Wollongong...please see below:

Our pilgrimage to WYD has been hit with the unexpected news that one of our youngest pilgrims has a brain tumor and will be operated on in the coming days. In telling everyone her news her only main concern seems to be healing enough to still make the journey to World Youth Day.

She is only 19 and only became a Catholic at Easter 2009, much inspired by her experience at WYD Sydney. She is firmly holding on to the belief that God is with her through all this and is talking about this experience being God's way of telling her she can handle more than she thinks she can, that she has unknown strength. Whatever the outcome of her surgery, whether she is well enough to make the journey to WYD remains to be seen, but I have no doubt that either way it will impact our journey. Please **keep this strong young pilgrim in your prayers and invite others to do the same.**

Additionally, I have also been contacted by another pilgrim group coordinator who currently has indicated one of their young pilgrims is in a coma. For this young man and for all other intentions spoken and unspoken .Lord Hear Us.

Session 9: I surrender

Aim: *To explore the move from surrendering habits and desires to God, to surrendering our entire lives to God. Understanding that to be in the most intimate relationship with God, requires us to surrender our whole life to Him.*

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Introduction: Of the day's theme, welcoming new participants

Song: Giving it all to you (refer to attachment 2) (10 mins)

Stimuli 1: The Path of Surrender story (read out) (5 mins)

Leader explains why the story is read again this session – that this time, the focus is 'not so much on the letting go of the rocks, but on the walking of the path towards Jesus,' to surrender our lives to Him.

Stimuli 2: Audio Interview with Brother Nihal D'Silva (20 mins)

An audio interview with suitable images and headings will be played, that explores the theme of life surrender in five key areas.

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-zSowbfFOg>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwJ69wTOu8g>

Group activity: Reflection PowerPoint and *The real Path of Surrender* (30 mins)

A reflective PowerPoint will be looped that aims to help participants reflect on and digest the previous video interview. This is quiet time.

After suitable time, participants are encouraged to, one at a time, walk the path made by the tiles, and reflect on a life surrendered to God. Upon reaching the end of the path, participants sit in a circle around the cross, and continue their own reflection / journaling.

Soft background music: *Giving it all to you.*

----- Break -----

Group Discussion: (35 mins)

How did letting go of your 'tile' item, go throughout the last fortnight?

The 5 topics covered in the video interview:

- 1) Where is God missing in your life?
- 2) What are your "guitars"
- 3) Surrender ≠ Sacrifice. = receiving
- 4) Time - the most precious thing to surrender
- 5) Emptying to be filled

Regathering (10 mins)

- Tools of the Journey: *Uniting with the world*
- World of World Youth Day
- Scripture explanation

Final Song

Attachment (1)

Giving it all to You

You are the author life
Just one word and I am free
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Our hearts cry out
We need you now
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Just one drop and we are filled
Just one drop and we are filled
Just one word and we are free

Attachment (2)

Path of Surrender

One day, in sheer desperation and sorrow, Nilu approached Jesus in prayer, head bowed. "Lord, I am helpless and very tired. My heart is restless. Please, come into my life and fill my heart, because I cannot do it alone. I've tried so many times."

And from his heart, Jesus shone his revealing light on Nilu, and she is able to see parts of her life as heavy rocks on her back, crushing and weakening her slowly. Control, fear, pride and regret are but some of these rocks. Then the Lord gently said, "Child, surrender all these rocks to me."

Nilu closed her eyes. Slowly, one at a time, she offers each rock to the Lord. Some rocks, especially the one that represented control, are very hard to let go of, but the light from Jesus encourages her to trust in him.

When Nilu felt she had surrendered everything to the Lord, she noticed she still felt restless and empty, as if part of her was now missing. She slowly opened her eyes and was surprised to see that her rocks had formed a path leading away from her feet. Jesus had built a path between the two of them with the rocks she had surrendered.

Jesus smiled. "Child your heart is still restless, because you need to surrender one last thing to me." Nilu looked at Jesus, confused.

Jesus opened his arms wide. "Will *you* now come to me? Child, will you cross this path and surrender your entire life to me?"

And Nilu smiled with tears of joy, as she proceeded to run across the rocks to Jesus. Never did she take my eyes off the Lord, until she had crossed the path and became filled up with the overflowing love of his embrace.

Story by Lawrence Yuen