

SESSION 5

ALL IN REQUIRES

surrender

“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ”

Philippians 3:8

ABOUT THIS SESSION

Last Sunday many of us came out of the stands, suited up, and got into the game. It's not too late to be a part of the team. God has great things ahead for all of us. At times in our lives we want to have it both ways—ours and God's. It is not surprising that when we try to live this way the results are a mess. As we will discover with this last look at Abraham, sometimes we need to be reminded that God's way is ultimately the best, even when it looks like it will cost us everything.

“The life of surrender is choosing God before anyone or anything else.”

COME

together

All authority
All the victory

Small Group Leader Note: Open your group with prayer. Then, begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking.

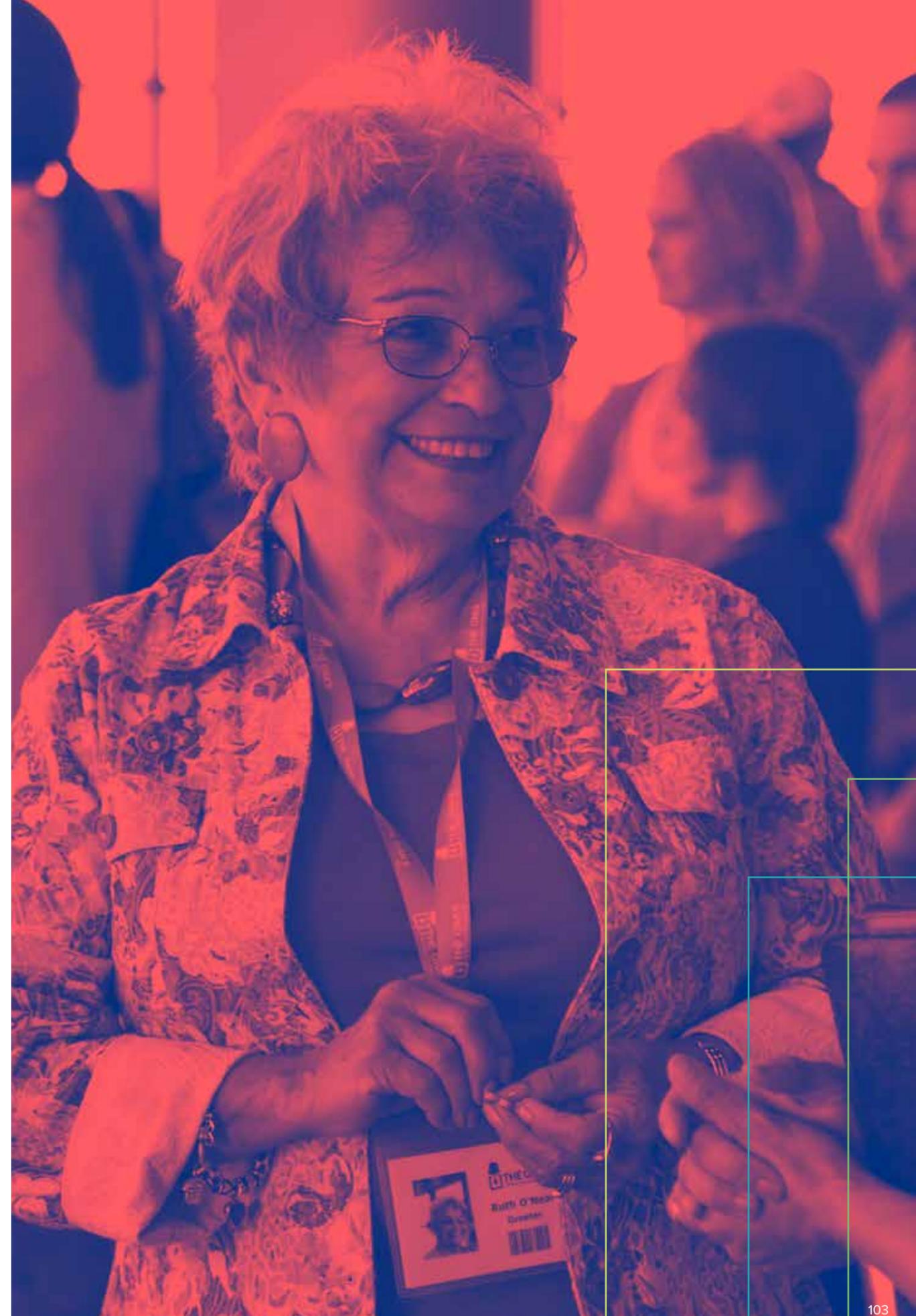
QUESTIONS

- 1 Whether you have already made your ALL IN commitment this past weekend or you will make it this next weekend, would you share your story about what God has done in your life over these last several weeks to cause you to fully surrender to Him?
- 2 Describe in three words or less what you are feeling about the next two years. How can others in this group support you and pray for you during this journey?
- 3 Take a few minutes to decide what's next for your Small Group.
 - Choose an opportunity to serve together (i.e. serve at The Oaks on Sunday mornings with Epic Kids or Guest Services, serve in the community, or go on a missions trip).
 - Choose a time to meet during the break for fellowship and reconnection.
- 4 For more ideas and resources about continuing your Small Group, go to groups.theoaksonline.org.

WATCH THE VIDEO



You can watch the video online at allin.theoaksonline.org or on the ALL IN DVD. After you watch the video, have someone read the Scripture passage and questions in the Learn Together section and direct the discussion among the group. As you go through each of the subsequent sections, ask someone else to read the questions and direct the discussion.



LEARN TOGETHER

God uses stories to guide us. In fact, the Bible is His story! When we read the true stories of Scripture, we learn what God is like and we see His plan unfolding. We also learn principles for our own lives. So how can we become a part of God's story? By aligning our stories with His and not just understanding what it means to follow Him, but actually doing it—changing our attitudes and actions to live as He would live.

Use the following questions to guide your discussion of the teaching and stories you just experienced, and the Bible passage below. You may also want to refer to the study notes on the next page to guide your reading and discussion.



QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the meaning of the word “sacrifice” in verse 2 and how important is it in understanding the way God wants us to see everything in our possession?
- 2 What did surrendering Isaac do for Abraham?
- 3 After listening to Pastor Scott and the group, what does “surrender” mean in our relationship with Christ?
- 4 Is the value of surrender, like worship and trust, wrapped up in what these things do for God or in what these things accomplish in us?

SCRIPTURE

READ: GENESIS 22:1-8

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. **2** Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” **3** Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. **4** On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. **5** He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.” **6** Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, **7** Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” **8** Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

STUDY NOTES

Offer him there as a burnt offering (v.2). God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son—the fulfillment of God's promise— not because He wanted to kill Isaac, but because He wanted Abraham to experience as deeply as possible the truth that life is about doing it God's way, even when it appears it will be too hard. We don't really know what it's like to “let God” until we are willing to “let go.” For a disciple, a follower of Jesus, every area of our lives is in some stage of surrender, including the resources we have... and He has a right to it all.



GROW TOGETHER

God is asking us to live our lives and give in a way that CHANGES us, to give in a way that COSTS us something, and to live in a way that truly honors WHO GOD IS in our lives.

In essence, these actions prove that we are surrendering our lives to Him and His plan for us. We are ALL IN.

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.

- 1 Pastor Scott described the heart of surrender as “committing everything you know about self to everything you know about God.” What are the effects of having a “heart of surrender”?

PRAY TOGETHER

To close your time together, spend some time praying.

- 1 If you haven't decided on a follow-up meeting or time for small group to continue, do so now.
2 Ask everyone to share, "How can we pray for you this week?" Be sure to write prayer requests on our Prayer and Praise Report on page 120.
3 Close your meeting with prayer.

DAILY devotionals

There are six days of devotions. On the last day, read back over your responses and let that guide a final time of reflection.

Use these daily devotions to go deeper into this week's topic. Each day, read the verse given. Take your time. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Notice which word or phrase stands out to you. Then take some time to journal your response back to Him. You can write whatever is on your heart. Answer the "Reflect" question only if it's helpful. Feel free to go another direction if you sense God leading you. On the first day, you may want to read over all the verses for the week to get the "big picture" of the passage. But then walk slowly, verse by verse. Listen to what God wants to say to you through His Word, and respond to Him as you meditate on the truths of Scripture.

After Day 3 of each week, you will have an opportunity to take what you have learned and put it into practice. These "Action Steps" will challenge you to respond to these truths in your daily life.

MEMORY VERSE

What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:8

DAY 1

Read Philippians 3:7-8

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."

REFLECT

How is this a picture of joyful surrender for a good reason?

DAY 2

Read Hebrews 11:6

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

REFLECT

In what ways does this verse describe basic surrender to God on our part?
