

Apprentice Group Meeting Guide – Surrender (Step #3)

“How are we all doing?” (Brief Check In – 10 Minutes) – High, Low & Buffalo

“Are we all ready?” (Prepare – Done Beforehand or 3-4 Minutes Now)

Review the questions and pray, “Holy Spirit, what do you want to bring into the light?”

“Shall we dive in?” (Scripture)

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 out loud. Take a few seconds to reflect in silence, then read it again.

“Let’s take a moment.” (Silence) – Take a few minutes to “tune” your heart towards Jesus.

“Who would like to go first?” (Share One at a Time – Set a Timer for 15-20 Minutes)

Each person shares for 15-20 minutes. Everyone else listens, asks questions, but offers no advice.

1. Consider your story. How have you experienced God’s faithfulness in the past?
2. Consider your area of powerlessness. How have you tried to find freedom without surrender to God in the past?
3. In step #3, we trust God with our will and lives, which means giving up control. Where is giving up control easier for you? What is more difficult?
4. Look outside of yourself. Who else or what else do you most often try to control?
5. What do you risk by giving up control? What could you gain by surrendering?
6. Even though you have confessed you are powerless and that God can restore you to sanity, do you believe that surrendering your life and will is the best way forward?
7. **Prayer & Scripture For This Week** - Surrender is not a decision but an action and often involves doing the opposite of what we want. Take a moment to ‘tune your heart’ to Jesus. Then, then pray Jesus’ own prayer of surrender: “*Not my will, but yours be done.*” (Luke 22:42)

“That’s the timer! Thanks for sharing _____. Let’s pray for you.” (Prayer)

Have someone pray. If you aren’t sure what to say, just say “Please & Thank You” to God.

“Alright, who’s next?” (Everyone Takes a Turn Sharing and Being Prayed For)

“Thanks everyone! Same time next week?” (Confirm Next Meeting & Wrap it Up)

Setting the Stage

- No screens in sight (phone, laptop, TV, smart watch, etc.)
- Prevent interruptions as much as you can (phones silent, smart watch muted or taken off, space from kids/coworkers/family, etc.)
- Sit so everyone can see each other
- Be aware of things that might distract – windows, traffic, hallways, etc.
- Set a timer! You want everyone to have time to share.

How to Share

- Read the question (out loud if you'd like)
- Take a moment to gather your thoughts. Take another moment if you'd like. (You have 15-20 minutes!)
- Start by sharing something (anything!), and then pause if you need before sharing again. Move on to the next question when you're ready.
- *If you're thinking about what to say* - "I just need a moment."
- *If you aren't sure how to say it well, be blunt. You can explain after.* - "I'm not sure how to say this, so I'm just going to say it."
- *If you think there's more to say but aren't sure how to proceed* - "I'm not sure what else to say. Can someone ask me a question?"
- *Give space for others to share – when the timer goes off, bring it to a quick close.*

How to Listen

- Make eye contact, nod, and actively listen ("uh-huh, OK, right, yeah, oh no," etc.)
- *Be OK with silence!* Give the speaker space to form their thoughts as they share.
 - Silence doesn't last as long as you think. If you're really uncomfortable, just count to 10 slowly in your head to give the person time.
- *Be OK with people sharing big stuff!* If someone shares something vulnerable:
 - "That's heavy" or "That's hard" or "That hurts"
 - "Thanks for sharing."
 - "I'm sorry that happened."
 - "That sounds like it was (tough / devastating / awful / etc.) for you."
 - Be OK to respond and then give space - "I'm sorry – that's hard!" followed by silence.
- *Ask follow up questions*
 - "Can you tell us more about...?"
 - "What has ____ looked like for you?" or "How was ____ for you?"
 - "What else / how else has ____?"