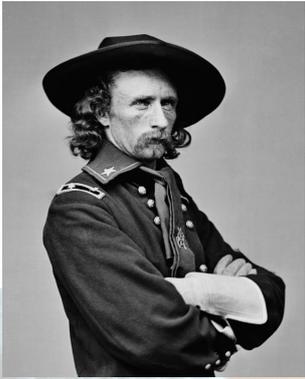


Session 6

Surrendering Your Life For God's Pleasure

What comes into your mind when you think of the word surrender?



In the Christian life Jesus sets it out clearly that there needs to be a refocus of our lives and ambitions from centred on **US** to centred on

God and **others**. *Luke 9:23-24* Then he told them what they

could expect for themselves: "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat—I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you?"

Describe any time when you have experienced or witnessed people totally setting aside their own interest or agenda to help somebody else.

Life together with God and his family ultimately leads us to surrender ourselves wholly to God. Surrender means trust. It means laying down our defenses and whatever we're using to stay in control. The more we know God, the more willing we are to follow him wherever he leads. Worship is linked to surrender, as we see in Jesus' encounter with a man and a woman:-

Luke 7 Jesus anointed by a sinful woman

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. **37** A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. **38** As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is – that she is a sinner.'

40 Jesus answered him, 'Simon, I have something to tell you.' 'Tell me, teacher,' he said.

41 'Two people owed money to a certain money-lender. One owed him five hundred denarii,[c] and the other fifty. **42** Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?'

43 Simon replied, 'I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.' 'You have judged correctly,' Jesus said.

44 Then he turned towards the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. **46** You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. **47** Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been

forgiven – as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.'

48 Then Jesus said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

49 The other guests began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?'

50 Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'



1. Look at how the woman in the story expresses her love for Jesus. In what way does her behaviour resemble worship?
2. Why does Simon in the story view this scene with contempt?
3. What is the point of the story that Jesus tells in verses 41-42?
4. The difference between the woman and Simon is that she knows she needs a lot of forgiveness, and he doesn't. On a typical weekday in your life, to what degree are you like either the woman or Simon?
5. Jesus isn't available today in order to literally kiss his feet- our worship has to take other forms. How can we express the kind of love for Jesus that this woman expressed?
6. Out of love for Jesus, this lady surrenders a valuable possession and exposes herself to ridicule. She is a picture of humble surrender. How will that look like in our own lives this week and beyond?



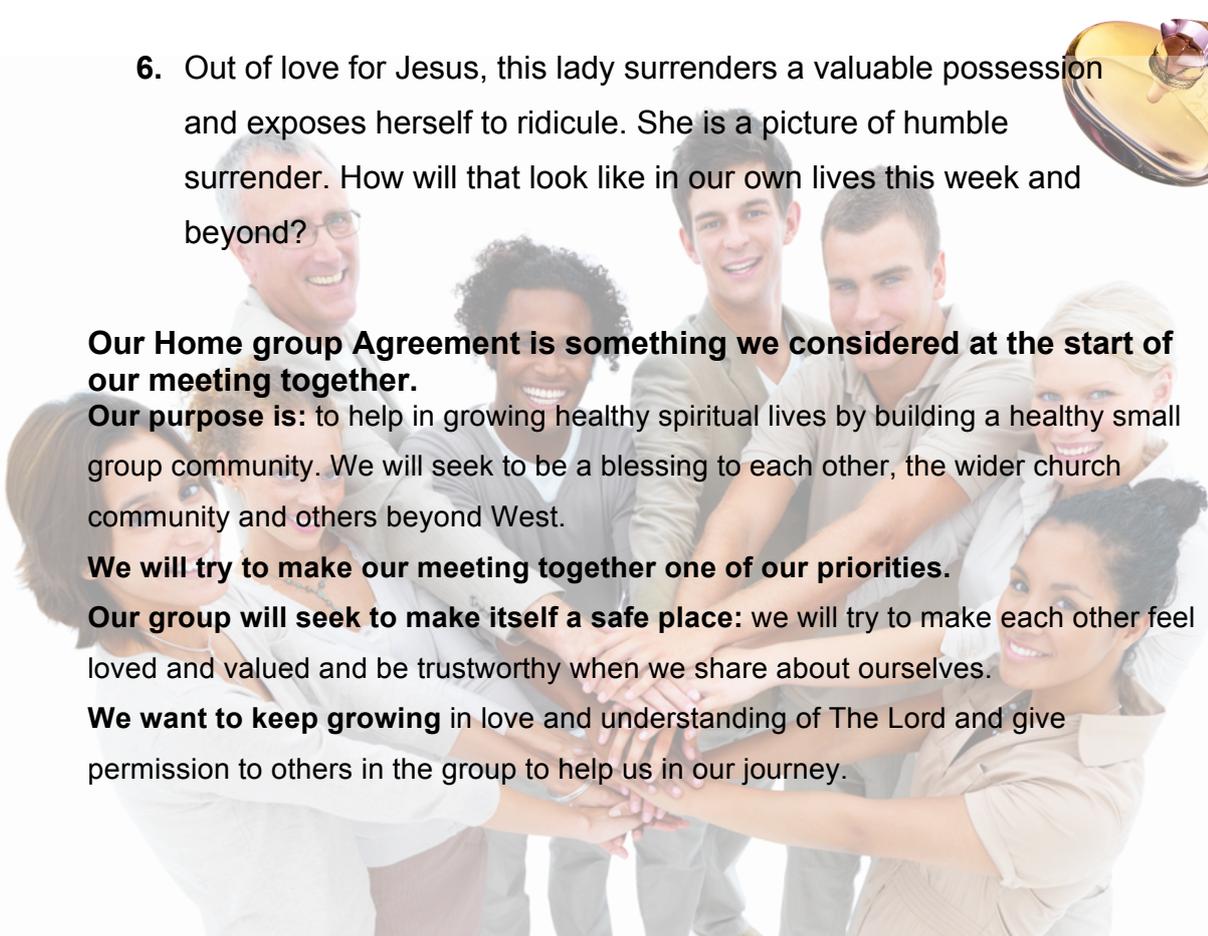
Our Home group Agreement is something we considered at the start of our meeting together.

Our purpose is: to help in growing healthy spiritual lives by building a healthy small group community. We will seek to be a blessing to each other, the wider church community and others beyond West.

We will try to make our meeting together one of our priorities.

Our group will seek to make itself a safe place: we will try to make each other feel loved and valued and be trustworthy when we share about ourselves.

We want to keep growing in love and understanding of The Lord and give permission to others in the group to help us in our journey.



We want to be an open group that looks for opportunities to share the new life we have in Jesus with others.

We are all disciples, gifted uniquely by God, our group will encourage each other in our ministries.

We're all in this together and will seek to help each other in the practical running of the group.

We hope and pray that you are starting to love being part of our group. Taking on any commitment to serve in the group as it develops will involve some aspect of surrender- but in serving the Lord there is also an amazing blessing that accompanies service as well.

The woman in Luke 7 surrendered herself so completely that bystanders thought it was a shocking display. Deeply humble surrender can make us uneasy- unless we're convinced that God deserves this kind of treatment. But when we comprehend the miracle of his forgiveness, surrender seems like the only natural response.

Pray

Find a prayed buddy.

Chat and pray through any areas that you feel led to surrender to God: it might be a difficulty that you're facing, a habit that you'd like to let go of, a hurt you've been holding on to, or something precious that you want to entrust to God. It could be a particular person. There may be nothing you feel like sharing and that's fine too.

Father, we love you because you have forgiven us for so much. We trust you because you have shown us your faithfulness. We put all our desires, our dreams, our hurts, our need for healing, our loved ones, our past, and our future into your hands. We open ourselves to your instruction. We trust you to do only what will bring our highest good. We will follow wherever you lead. We say this in your Son's name. Amen.