

The Cost and Freedom of Surrender

Merchantville Small Group Guide

Warm-Up Questions

1. What's something small or silly you had a surprisingly hard time letting go of (like an old hoodie, a high school playlist, or a dream job)?
2. If surrender could lead to absolute freedom, what area of your life would you want freedom in the most?

Key Passage: Ephesians 5:1-2; 8-10

In "The Cost and Freedom of Surrender," Pastor Billy walked us through the hard but holy call of Jesus to lay down everything—our plans, our identity, even our comfort—for the sake of something far better: true freedom in Christ. Anchored in Ephesians 5 and an honest, powerful testimony from Ice, the message challenged us to stop living halfway—believing in Jesus without fully surrendering to Him. Surrender isn't about behavior modification; it's about heart transformation. And while the cost feels high, the cost of holding back is even greater. Jesus doesn't want a piece of our lives—He wants all of us, because only then can we become who we were truly meant to be.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What part of Ice's story resonated with you the most, and why?
2. Have you ever felt like God was asking you to surrender something that felt too big? What was your internal response?
3. Pastor Billy said, "You can have control, or you can have Christ." What does that tension look like in your own life?
4. Why do you think we often associate surrender with weakness, when biblically it's actually a pathway to strength?
5. Ephesians 5 says we were "once darkness, but now are light." How have you experienced that transformation in your life—or where are you still waiting to?
6. What's something you're still holding onto that you suspect God might be asking you to release?
7. How does fear play a role in our resistance to surrender? What helps you push through that fear?
8. What would it look like, practically, for you to surrender "everything" to Jesus this week?

Challenge + Application:

1. Choose One Surrender Step.

Identify one specific thing God is asking you to surrender—maybe it’s control over a relationship, a hidden sin, your comfort zone, or even just your schedule. Write it down. This week, take one bold step toward releasing it. That might mean having a hard conversation, deleting an app, setting a boundary, or confessing to someone you trust. Don’t just name it—act on it.

2. Change Your Posture.

This week, every time you catch yourself trying to control something (your image, your future, your relationships), take 60 seconds to pause, breathe, and open your hands. Literally. Use that moment to say, “Jesus, I trust You more than I trust myself.” Let surrender become your spiritual reflex, not just your Sunday response.

Pray