



THE POWER OF WE
GATEWAY GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Power of Surrender

Focus Often God's blessings in our lives are the very things that keep us from seeking God first. Just like Abraham laying down Isaac, when we lay down anything that competes with God for first place in our lives, He blesses us.

Open What are three things you would have a hard time living without?

- Talk**
1. Read Hebrews 11:17–19. God had blessed Abraham with Isaac and given him promises through him. Why do you think God would then ask Abraham to surrender him?
 2. * Often the greatest threats to our relationship with God are the blessings and promises He gives us. How can promises and blessings threaten our relationship to God?
 3. Go around the group and have each person tell about two of the greatest blessings God has given them.
 4. * Read Matthew 6:33. Have you ever found yourself seeking after one of God's promises more than after God Himself? Share with the group.
 5. How can we identify things that may compete with our pursuit of God?
 6. Read Genesis 22:2–3. When God spoke to Abraham about making a sacrifice, he was immediately obedient. Tell about a time God spoke to you about doing something and you responded with immediate obedience.
 7. What are possible outcomes of us being either disobedient, partially obedient or delaying our obedience? Tell about a time you have not responded to God promptly or obediently.

Live

1. Has God ever called you to lay down something that was difficult for you? What was the result of your obedience?
2. * Read Genesis 22:15–18. Because of Abraham’s obedience in sacrificing what God had promised, God blessed him abundantly. What are some ways God blesses us when we surrender everything in our life to Him?
3. Break into groups of 4–5 and discuss the following:
 - a. What are the promises or blessings God has given you that compete with God for your heart?
 - b. Have you laid those things down before the Lord? What would it look like if you did?
 - c. How can you practically lay down God’s blessings and promises?
4. How can we keep our hearts daily in an attitude of surrender?

Pray

Pray that God would show us what things in our lives keep us from seeking Him first. Pray for the grace and courage to lay down anything in our lives that competes with God for first place.

* Key points for leaders.