

# ALL IN *requires* SURRENDER

# 6

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...

Philippians 3:7-8 NKJV



# INTRODUCTION

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.

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

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# COME *TOGETHER*

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

- 1 Whether you have already committed this past weekend or whether you will commit 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 LIFE Group. Choose an opportunity to serve together (i.e. Toys for Joy). Choose a time to meet during the break for fellowship and reconnection.
- 4 For more ideas and resources about continuing your LIFE Group, go to [sdrockgroups.com](http://sdrockgroups.com).





# WATCH THE VIDEO

You can watch the video online at [sdrock.com/ALLIN](http://sdrock.com/ALLIN) or on the ALL IN DVD. After you enjoy watching the video, have someone read the Scripture passage and questions in the Read 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. And we also learn principles for our own lives. How can we become a part of God's story? By aligning our stories with His; 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 on the next page. You may also want to refer to the study notes on page 90 to guide your reading and discussion.

## READ: GENESIS 22:1-8

*<sup>1</sup>Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."<sup>2</sup> Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."<sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. <sup>5</sup> And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."<sup>6</sup> So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. <sup>7</sup> But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. (NKJV)*

- 5 What is the meaning of the word "offer" in verse 2 and how important is it in understanding the way God wants us to see everything in our possession?
- 6 What did surrendering Isaac do for Abraham?
- 7 After listening to Pastor Miles and the group, what does "surrender" mean in our relationship with Christ?
- 8 Is the value of surrender (like worship, trust, and honor) wrapped up in what these things do for God or in what these things accomplish in us?



# 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, give in a way that **COSTS** us something, and 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.

- 9 Pastor Miles 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?"



# 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.

## DAY 1

Read Philippians 3:7-8

*But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.*

### Reflect:

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

## DAY 2

Read Hebrews 11:6

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

### Reflect:

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

## DAY 3

Read Galatians 2:20-21

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.*

### Reflect:

How do you identify with Paul's description of the surrendered life in these verses?

### Action Steps:

This week take time to praise and thank God for helping you surrender yourself to Him. Let God know the things you're struggling to still surrender. Then ask God to help you surrender your fears to Him and believe He is able.

## DAY 4

Read John 12:24

*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.*

### Reflect:

What are some aspects of your life that you still need to surrender to God for His plans?

## DAY 5

Read John 8:36

*Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

### Reflect:

How has your commitment to the ALL IN Initiative affected the sense of freedom that you have in Christ?

## DAY 6

Use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your reflection time this week.

# APPENDICES



# HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Tools to Help You Have a Great LIFE Group Experience!



- 1 Notice in the Table of Contents there are three sections: (1) Front Matter; (2) Sessions; and (3) Appendices. Familiarize yourself with these sections. Some of the Appendices will be used in the sessions themselves.
- 2 This is much more than a LIFE Group workbook. It has been designed as a constant companion for the ALL IN Initiative. What we do in worship, the messages we hear, and every aspect of our life together as Rock Church family will be guided by this Study Guide during the coming weeks.
- 3 If you are Hosting or co-hosting a LIFE Group, check out [sdrockgroups.com](http://sdrockgroups.com) and you will find some encouragement and help so you can avoid common obstacles to effective group meetings.
- 4 Use this Study Guide as an advisor. If the group responds to the lesson in an unexpected but honest way, go with that. If you think of a better question than the next one in the lesson, ask it.
- 5 Enjoy your LIFE Group experience. Have fun.
- 6 Pray before each session—for your group members, for your time together, and for wisdom and insights.
- 7 Read the outline for each session on the next pages so that you understand how the sessions will flow.

# OUTLINE OF EACH SESSION

A typical group session for the ALL IN study will include the following sections:

**INTRODUCTION.** Each lesson opens with a brief thought that will help you prepare for the session and get you thinking about the particular subject you will explore with your group. Make it a practice to read these before the session.

**COME TOGETHER.** The foundation for spiritual growth is an intimate connection with God and God's family. You build that connection by sharing your experience with a few people who really know you and who earn your trust. This is helpful preparation for being able to share what Christ has done in your life with anyone you meet—which is what a disciple is ready to do. This section includes some simple questions to get you talking—letting you share as much or as little of your story as you feel comfortable doing. Each session typically offers you 2 options. You can get to know your whole group by using the icebreaker question(s), or you can check in with 1 or 2 group members for a deeper connection and encouragement in your spiritual journey.

**WATCH THE VIDEO.** When the study directs you to, you'll start the video and watch a short teaching segment. You can watch the videos online at [sdrock.com/allin](http://sdrock.com/allin) or with the ALL IN DVD available at each Rock campus. Each session's teaching will include biblical insights from Pastor Miles, interaction with brothers and sisters about aspects of the ALL IN life, and powerful worship music to lead us into God's presence. Space is provided in this study guide to take notes you can use in the discussion to follow.

**LEARN TOGETHER.** In this section, you'll have an opportunity to read a passage of Scripture and discuss both the teaching and the text. You won't focus on accumulating information but on how you should live in light of the Word of God. We want to help you apply the insights from Scripture practically and creatively, from your heart as well as your head. At the end of the day, allowing the timeless truths from God's Word to transform our lives in Christ should be your greatest aim.

**STUDY NOTES.** This brief section provides additional commentary, background, or insights on the passage you'll study in the Learn Together section.

**GROW TOGETHER.** God wants you to be a part of His Kingdom—to weave your story into His. That will mean change. It will require you to go His way rather than your own. This won't happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By making small, simple choices, we can begin to change our direction. This is where the Bible's instructions to "be doers of the Word, not just hearers" (James 1:22) comes into play. Many people skip over this aspect of the Christian life because it's scary, relationally awkward, or simply too much work for their busy schedules. But Jesus wanted all of His disciples to know Him personally, carry out His commands, and help outsiders connect with Him. This doesn't necessarily mean preaching on street corners. It could mean welcoming newcomers, hosting a short-term group in your home, or walking through this study with a friend. In this study, you'll have an opportunity to go beyond Bible study to biblical living.

**SHARE AND WORSHIP TOGETHER.** This section will have a question or two that will challenge you to live out your faith by serving others, sharing your faith, and worshiping God.

**SERMON NOTES.** Bring your study guide with you each Sunday and take notes during the sermon in the provided blanks.

**DAILY DEVOTIONS.** Each week on the Daily Devotions pages we provide Scriptures to read and reflect on between sessions—a month's worth of reflections to keep God's Word near your heart. This provides you with a chance to slow down, read just a small portion of Scripture each day, and reflect and pray through it. You'll then have a chance to journal your response to what you've read. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don't get in a hurry; take enough time to hear God's direction.

# FAQs

## About LIFE Groups

### What do we do on the first night of our group?

Like all fun things in life—have a party! A “get to know you” coffee, dinner, or dessert is a great way to launch a new study. You may want to review the Group Agreement (page 101) and share the names of a few friends you can invite to join you. But most importantly, have fun before your study time begins.

### Where do we find new members for our group?

The best way to grow your group is through personal invitation! Make a list of friends, coworkers, and family members, etc. that you can invite. And then make it a point to talk to at least five people every Sunday, asking if they’re in a LIFE Group, and then invite them to your group if they’re not already involved.

No matter how you find members, it’s vital that you stay on the lookout for new people to join your group. All groups tend to go through healthy attrition—the result of moves, releasing new hosts, ministry opportunities, and so forth—and if the group gets too small, it could be at risk of shutting down. If you and your group stay open, you’ll be amazed at the people God sends your way. The next person just might become a friend for life. You never know!

### How long will this group meet?

The ALL IN Study lasts for 6 weeks, but we’d encourage you to prayerfully consider continuing your group after ALL IN is complete! At the end of this study, each group member may decide if he or she wants to continue on; some groups launch relationships for years to come and others are stepping stones into another group experience. Either way, enjoy the journey.

### Can we do this study on our own?

Absolutely! This may sound crazy, but one of the best ways to do this study is not with a full house but with a few friends. You may choose to gather with another couple who would enjoy some relational time (perhaps going to the movies or having a quiet dinner) and then walking through this study. Jesus will be with you even if there are only two of you (Matthew 18:20).

### What if this group is not working for us?

You’re not alone! This could be the result of a personality conflict, life stage difference, geographical distance, level of spiritual maturity, or any number of things. Relax. Pray for God’s direction, and at the end of this 6-week study, decide whether to continue with this group or find another. You don’t typically buy the first car you look at or marry the first person you date, and the same goes with a group. However, don’t bail out before the 6 weeks are up—God might have something to teach you. Also, don’t run from conflict or prejudice people before you have given them a chance. God is still working in your life, too!

### Who is the host?

Most groups have an official host who facilitates the group. But ideally, the group will mature and members will rotate the leadership of meetings. We have discovered that healthy groups rotate hosts/leaders, on a regular basis. This model ensures that all members grow, give their unique contribution, and develop their gifts. This study guide and the Holy Spirit can keep things on track even when you rotate hosts. Christ has promised to be in your midst as you gather. Ultimately, God is your leader each step of the way.

### How do we handle the childcare needs in our group?

Very carefully. Seriously, this can be a sensitive issue. We suggest that you empower the group to openly brainstorm solutions. You may try one option that works for a while and then adjust over time. Our favorite approach is for adults to meet in the living room or dining room and to share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can watch the kids in a different part of the house. This way, parents don’t have to be away from their children all evening when their children are too young to be left at home. A second option is to use one home for the kids and a second home (close by or a phone call away) for the adults. A third idea is to rotate the responsibility of providing a lesson or care for the children either in the same home or in another home nearby. This can be an incredible blessing for kids. Finally, the most common solution is to decide that you need to have a night to invest in your spiritual lives individually or as a couple and to make your own arrangements for childcare. No matter what decision the group makes, the best approach is to dialogue openly about both the problem and the solution.

# LIFE GROUP AGREEMENT

**Our purpose is to talk about what it means to live a God-first life with a few friends.**

Group Attendance	To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent. (Completing the Group Calendar on page 102 will minimize this issue.)
Safe Environment	To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved.
Respect Differences	To be gentle and gracious toward people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or “imperfections.” We are all a work in progress.
Confidentiality	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.
Encouragement for Growth	Accept one another as we are while encouraging one another to grow.
Shared Ownership	To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attendee will share a small team role or responsibility over time.



