

Seven Keys to SUCCESS

Lesson 1—Surrender it all to God

Series: “Seven Keys to Success: Habits for Christian Living”

Surrender it all to God
Unite with God Every Day
Confess Your Sins
Continually Study God’s Word
Encourage Others to Know Christ
Stay the Course
Share Your Resources

OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passage: Luke 1:26-38

Key Verse: Luke 1:38—“I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered, ‘May it be to me as you have said.’”

BEFORE CLASS

Preparation: *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- How surrendered are you to God?
- How has believing that nothing is impossible to God has affected your life?
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed on Sunday morning.
- Pray for each student by name.

CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

CONTACT 1--The first time a student is absent, give him a call.

CONTACT 2--Following the second absence, send him a postcard.

CONTACT 3-- The third week they are absent, pay him a visit.

THINK ABOUT IT: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, “It really doesn’t matter if you’re here or not.” Small things communicate great messages. Let the three “small” things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.

OPENING ACTIVITY

As students enter, guide them to challenge each other in a game called “Mercy.” Mercy is a game where two individuals interlock fingers. Then on the signal, using only their hands, they try to push their opponent’s wrist back until he or she says, “Mercy!” Be sure to caution your students not to be too rough—we don’t want anyone to get hurt. The purpose of this activity is to make a point.

(NOTE: If you don’t feel that your students can keep this kind of game in appropriate bounds, then skip the open activity and simply adjust the questions below to begin the day’s lesson with a discussion instead.)

- *In this activity, at what point did you give up?*
- *Why did you surrender?*
- *What would have happened if you hadn’t surrendered?*
- *How is this like or unlike surrendering to God? (Examples: God will never force you to surrender; a life un-surrendered to God will always lead to hurt; etc.)*

*SAY: Today we’re going to take a look at what it means to **Surrender it all to God.***

BIBLE LESSON

Turn to Luke 1.

While they are turning, *ASK: Who knows an easy way to teach a new Christian how to find the Gospels?* (Turn to the middle of the Bible and you’ll be in or near the book of Psalms. Turn to the middle of the section on the right and you’ll be in or near the Gospels.)

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Luke 1:26-28

- *What was Mary’s situation?*
 - (1) She was a virgin—This is mentioned twice here to emphasis her purity.
 - (2) She was engaged to Joseph. Engagement in that day involved a formal agreement to be married. The man, in this case Joseph, had paid the bride’s price to the woman’s family and had accepted legal responsibility for her. Although the man and woman did not live together during this time, they were legally married. Only divorce could break the engagement, which usually lasted about one year and during which time the girl lived with her parents. Often the girl was 12-14 years old, the normal age for betrothal. If a girl was not married by the time she was 16, she was considered an “old maid.”
- *What did the angel say to Mary?* (“Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”)
- *How would you have responded as a 12 to 14 year old if an angel had appeared in your room and said this to you?*

SAY: Let's continue reading to see how Mary responded.

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Luke 1:29-33

- *What was Mary's initial response to the angel?* (She was deeply disturbed. The Greek word means "to stir up, confuse, perplex.")
- *Why do you think Mary was troubled at the angel's greeting?* (Probably because of the term he used to describe her—that she was greatly favored of God.)
- *How would you feel if an angel told you that you were "highly favored" by God? Would it change how you felt about yourself? How you lived? Would it change how you prayed? What you prayed about?*

SAY: Many students don't realize that, if you have given your life to Christ, you are highly favored of God. When God looks at you, He sees you through Christ's sacrifice which means He accepts you in prayer as if you have the righteousness of Jesus Himself. You are chosen and just like Mary, God has special plans for your life. You are so highly favored God sent His Son to buy back your life from sin and adopt you as His own child—How much more highly favored can you get!

- *What can you learn from Mary's response to the angel that teaches you about being fully surrendered to God?* (Surrendering to God's design for you begins by listening to His plan. Mary listened and then asked for clarification. Let's take a look at what she said.)

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Luke 1:34-38

- *Was Mary wrong to question God's plan?* (No, her question was not based on doubt in God's ability to accomplish His plan. Her question was asked to clarify the steps she must take in order to be submissive to God's will.)
- *If an angel appeared to you today and revealed God's plan for your life, what would you do? Would you be willing to drop everything and let it be so?*

SAY: Many students don't realize that God *will* call them to do things. It happens all the time but most people who miss out on God's call, miss it because they don't spend time with God daily and they aren't already surrendered to Him. Notice that Mary here isn't making a decision of whether or not to surrender to God. She is already surrendered and willing—she just wants more information so that she can be fully submissive to Him. In other words, don't wait for God's call to decide to surrender because God calls those who are already surrendered.

- *Is there anything that you feel God is calling you to do right now? What has been your response? What obstacles are you facing?*

- *If your life seems empty of God ever calling you or nudging you to do something, is there anything in your life that might hinder you from hearing God? Is there anything in your life that might have made you only part-way surrendered to Him?*

SAY: When we speak of God calling you to do something, many people think of something extraordinary and “big” like being called to go to Africa. But God might be calling you to do something that involves your everyday situations, something you might consider to be “small” though obedience to God is never “small.” Consider the following examples:

God might call you to:

- Eat lunch with a student who is sitting by himself.
 - Include a new girl into your group of friends.
 - Tell your friends to stop talking bad about someone.
 - Offer to pray for your teacher who is having a hard day.
 - Smile at a student and greet him by name as you pass him in the hall.
 - Spend more time with Him in prayer and Bible study.
 - Share your testimony with your school custodian.
- *What two things did the angel tell Mary that you can take comfort in anytime God asks you to do something? (“The Lord is with you”—verse 28, a promise of God’s presence; “Nothing is impossible with God”—verse 37, a promise of God’s ability.)*
 - *In what area of your life do you need to believe that nothing is impossible with God? What keeps you from believing this?*

KEY VERSE

Choose a volunteer to re-read—Luke 1:38

- *What was Mary’s response when she heard God’s plan? (Luke 1:38—“I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered, ‘May it be to me as you have said.’”)*

SAY: Mary’s response was to yield herself to be used by God without reservation. When the Lord desires to do a great work, He looks for people with a heart like Mary’s. From the list below, identify the characteristics of a person who submits to God’s will:

- Seeks to glorify God in all circumstances.
- Is primarily concerned with the opinions of other people.
- Hungers and thirsts for righteousness.
- Is willing to be used by God no matter what the costs.
- Lives a questionable moral testimony.
- Is willing to serve God when doing so is convenient.
- Seeks fulfillment from anything the world offers.
- Rarely reads the Bible or prays except in a crisis.
- Is sensitive to the work of God and is listening for God direction in life.
- Honors God through personal worship and devoted service, even in

small things.

- Which of the above things describes you the best?
- Can you think of any situations where you might have trouble surrendering to the Lord?

SAY: Some people are afraid to give God a “blanket-okay” to do anything because they haven’t growing in their relationship with Him enough to fully trust Him. Fully surrender is the natural result of full trust. When someone is hesitant to tell God “yes,” that they will do whatever He wants He them to do, they are exhibiting doubt in God’s trustworthiness: Is this really best? What if God made a mistake? Will I be okay if I do this? The result is usually that they end up living for themselves instead of living for Him and missing out on many of the things God had designed for their lives.

Would you say the following people are surrendered to God:

- Marcy feels that God wants her to tell a friend about Jesus. She struggles for several days and then talks to her friend even though she feels uncomfortable doing so—*Is she surrendered to God?* (NOTE: Being surrendered to God’s will doesn’t mean that it’s always easy to do God’s will.) *What encouragement or advice would you give her?*
- Joseph accepted Christ two years ago but won’t get baptized because he thinks it will be embarrassing. *Is he surrendered to God? What encouragement or advice would you give him?*
- Bobby goes to church, reads His Bible, and prays, but when he’s in his room by himself at night, he occasionally (but not all the time) looks at pornographic pictures on the Internet. *Is he surrendered to God? What encouragement or advice would you give him?* (A great piece of advice here: He needs to tell his parents what he’s struggling with and get the computer out of his room and out in the open where everybody can see what’s going on there.)
- Lucy has surrendered her life to full-time Christian service but her closest friends like talking bad about people. Even though she hasn’t joined in the criticism, she always sits there and listens to them talk. *Is she surrendered to God? What encouragement or advice would you give him?*
- Chappy used to smoke, drink and do drugs. He’s had a number of impure relationships. He really messed up his life. A few months ago he confessed his sins to God and recommitted his life. He’s been “clean” ever since but he still feels dirty because of all his bad choices. Last night he told God that he’d do anything for Him but he feels too unworthy to do anything. *Is he surrendered to God? What encouragement or advice would you give him?*

WRAP IT UP

- *Is there anything holding you back from being fully surrendered to God?*
- *In the long-run what will your non-surrender to Christ cost you?*
- *On a scale of 1 to 10 how surrendered would your friends at school say you are by how you live and talk? (Many times this is a better gauge than even how we feel about ourselves.)*

SAY: Remember: The best response to God's leadership is always submission to whatever He wants of you.

Prayer Time

Pray specifically today that your students will be surrendered to everything God wants to do in their lives.

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

Prayer Requests