

## Part 2 - Small Group Bible Study Guide



### Introduction - Lessons for Loving God - Total Surrender

Last week, we discussed guarding the heart—the seat of our emotions and desires. This week, we move to the Soul. In the biblical context, loving God with your "soul" (nephesh) refers to your entire being, your life force, and your will. It is the move from feeling love for God to surrendering your life to Him.

**Scripture Focus:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Romans 12:1; Genesis 22; Matthew 26:36-46

#### Icebreaker

The "Isaac" Question: If you had to pack a single suitcase of "essentials" for your identity (talents, dreams, relationships), what is the one thing you would be most hesitant to leave behind?

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Moses gave these instructions right before Israel entered the Promised Land—a place of transition and temptation. Why is "total surrender" more difficult when we are entering a season of blessing or success than when we are in a season of struggle?
2. Read Romans 12:1. Paul calls us to be "living sacrifices." What is the inherent difficulty with a living sacrifice compared to the Old Testament animal sacrifices? (Hint: A living sacrifice has the tendency to crawl off the altar!)
3. The Anatomy of Surrender: Looking at the examples of Abraham (Genesis 22) and Jesus (Matthew 26), both faced a moment of "not my will, but Yours."
4. In what ways was Abraham's surrender a test of his future?
5. In what ways was Jesus' surrender a test of His present physical and emotional endurance?
6. Identifying "Isaacs": Abraham had to lay down the very promise God gave him. Have you ever felt God asking you to surrender something good (a career goal, a healthy relationship, a dream) to ensure He remained first in your life?
7. The Gethsemane Process: Jesus prayed three times before He was fully ready to face the cross. Why should it encourage us that surrender is often a process of prayer rather than a one-time "switch" we flip?

#### Group Exercise: The 2026 Commitment

As a group, look at the four practical steps mentioned in the teaching (Daily Prayer, Releasing Isaacs, Weekly Review, and Stretching Service).