**Accelerate**

**Ignited Through Surrender- Week #1**

**Small Group Notes**

**August 5 and 8, 2021**

**Introduction:**

What is something that has been difficult for you to let go of? What is a time that you realized something better happened when you let something go?

Do you have a story of a time that you fought to surrender something? Why do we struggle with surrender so much?

Do you agree or disagree to this statement, “Surrender is essential to worshiping God.” Why or why not?

**Discuss:**

1. Read Genesis 22:3-14

* Worship is surrendering less, so that we can have more.
* Jesus is more than enough.

Explain: Abraham’s ultimate test of obedience to God is described in 22:1-19. God used this event to affirm the character of Abraham’s faith by giving him the incredibly difficult task of sacrificing his son Isaac. Abraham had to be willing to lay down Isaac and Isaac had to be willing to lay down as well.

Exactly as Abraham had predicted (v. 8), God had miraculously provided a sheep—and the most prized variety, a ram. To memorialize the event Abraham named that place The Lord Will Provide.

Ask:

**What is the relationship of obedience and worship in Abraham’s acts? How can our obedience to God be an act of worship to Him?**

**What is something lately that the Lord has asked you to do? Did you follow through or have you been delaying in acting?**

**How do we see Jesus’ work on the cross in this story? What does this story encourage you to do as a follower of Jesus?**

2. Read Romans 12:1-2

* The hardest part about a living sacrifice is it tends to crawl off the altar.

Explain: Paul urged the believers to present themselves as a living sacrifice. Jesus had given Himself as the once-and-for-all sacrifice for sin on the cross. Believers thus were to live in light of Jesus’ all-sufficient sacrifice, bringing glory to God. The person who has truly sacrificed himself or herself to God will be distinguished by an unwillingness to be conformed to the pattern of this world (v. 2), meaning the worldviews and practices that derive from the fallen state that define the age in which humans live at any time in history and will be marked as a worshipper of Jesus!

Ask:

**What evidence can people see that God has transformed you? Why is it important for Christians to stand out from the rest of the world, even in our worship?**

**How can our worship reflect the transformation we have experienced? What are some things, including yourself, that may need to be removed as idols in your life so that true transformation can occur?**

3. Read Hebrews 10:19-25

* The Gospel is the ember that ignites the heart of worship.
* The Gospel is the fuel for our lives.
* Worship is revealed in the mundane stretches of life as well as the corporate gatherings.
* Worship focuses our attention on the King and allows us to draw near to each other.
* When the spark of worship within us is joined with other sparks of worship around us, ignition happens.

Explain: Because of the blood of Jesus our High Priest, we can enter God’s presence with boldness at any time, having confidence that He receives us and will hear our prayers (see Heb. 4:16). Notice what Jesus accomplished for His people through His death and resurrection and ascension to the Father’s right hand: we can draw near to God; we have true hearts instead of deceitful ones; we have full assurance based on our faith in Him; our hearts are clean rather than polluted by sin; our consciences are cleansed; and even our bodies are washed, metaphorically referring to our purification in Christ. Therefore, we are drawn together to worship as the body of Christ and rejoicing together in the redemption that is provided in Christ!

Ask:

**How does this passage show us that worship goes beyond just singing? How should what Jesus has done (The Gospel) impact the way we worship God?**

**What are some ways that you can actively prepare yourself for worship (individually and corporately)?**

**How does being around other believers help us to endure in the faith and hold true to our confession? How does it encourage our worship?**

*Ref: blueletterbible.org; smallgroup.lifeway.com*