

Under New Management Week 1

This study guide is designed to help you reflect on and apply the key points from week 1. The sermon focuses on the concept of surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, embracing His truth and grace, and living under His management. Use this guide for personal reflection or group discussion.

Key Scripture Passages

- **2 Timothy 4:1-5:** Preach the word with patience and teaching, enduring suffering and fulfilling ministry.
- **1 John 2:15-17:** Do not love the world or its desires, but do the will of God.
- **1 Peter 5:7:** Cast your cares upon God because He cares for you.
- **Proverbs 3:5-6:** Trust in the Lord with all your heart and acknowledge Him in all your ways.
- **Romans 8:28:** God works all things together for the good of those who love Him.
- **John 14:15:** If you love Jesus, you will keep His commandments.
- **Psalms 37:5:** Commit your way to the Lord and trust in Him.
- **Psalms 100:5:** The Lord is good, and His love and faithfulness endure forever.

Main Themes

1. **Truth and Grace:** The sermon emphasizes preaching the unfiltered truth of God's Word while balancing it with grace to foster restoration rather than broken relationships or compromise.
2. **Surrender to Jesus' Lordship:** Accepting Jesus means coming under His "new management," surrendering personal desires to His will.
3. **Trusting God:** Despite past hurts or a lack of full understanding, trusting God with your whole heart is essential to embracing His management.
4. **God's Love and Purpose:** God loves you, wants you to trust Him, and is working for good, even when it benefits others or involves suffering.

Reflection Questions

1. **Truth and Grace in Your Life:**
 - How have you experienced the balance of truth and grace in your spiritual journey?
 - Are there areas where you lean more toward truth (judgment) or grace (compromise)? How can you seek restoration in those areas?
2. **Surrendering to New Management:**
 - The sermon describes Christianity as coming under the "new management" of Jesus' Lordship. What does this mean to you personally?

- Reflect on the moment you said "yes" to Jesus. How has your life changed since accepting His management?

3. **Evaluating Your Choices:**

- The sermon lists five questions to evaluate your surrender to God (e.g., forgiving others, tithing, attending church, sharing your faith). Which of these areas is strongest for you? Which needs growth?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to align more closely with God's will in one of these areas?

4. **Trusting God Amid Brokenness:**

- The sermon addresses how past hurts or a fallen world can make it hard to trust God. Have you struggled to trust God because of pain caused by others or yourself?
- How can you begin to "cast your cares" on God (1 Peter 5:7) and surrender your brokenness to Him?

5. **God's Love and Purpose:**

- Do you believe Jesus loves you, even in the face of suffering? Why or why not?
- The sermon highlights that God's good work may not always directly benefit you but can bless others. Are you comfortable with this idea? How can you embrace God's purpose for your life, even when it involves sacrifice?

Group Discussion Questions

1. **Cultural Influence vs. God's Word:**

- The sermon warns against letting culture or personal desires dictate actions over God's Word. Where do you see cultural pressures challenging your faith? How can you hold fast to biblical truth in those areas?

2. **Free Will and Suffering:**

- The sermon explains that suffering often comes from living in a fallen world or from free will (ours or others'). Share a time when you experienced suffering. How did you see God's love or grace in that situation?

3. **Trusting God Fully:**

- Proverbs 3:5-6 calls us to trust God with all our heart, even when we don't understand. What makes trusting God difficult for you? How can your group pray for or support you in trusting Him more?

4. **Working for Others' Good:**

- The story of the hiker illustrates how God's plan may lead us to help others. Share an example of a time when God used you to benefit someone else, even if it was inconvenient or unexpected.

Practical Applications

1. **Daily Surrender:**

- Each morning, pray a prayer of surrender, asking God to guide your decisions and actions according to His will. Example: “Lord, I surrender my plans to You today. Help me follow Your management and trust Your purpose.”
2. **Forgiveness Exercise:**
 - Reflect on someone who has hurt you or a sin you need to forgive yourself for. Write a letter (not to send) expressing your pain and choosing to forgive, then pray, asking God to take this burden.
 3. **Scripture Memorization:**
 - Memorize one of the key verses, such as Proverbs 3:5-6 or John 14:15, to remind you to trust and obey God.
 4. **Accountability Partner:**
 - Find a trusted friend or mentor to meet with weekly. Share one area where you struggle to surrender to God’s management and ask them to hold you accountable.
 5. **Serve Others:**
 - Look for an opportunity this week to serve someone in your church or community, even anonymously. Reflect on how this aligns with God’s purpose for your life.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the courage to surrender fully to Jesus’ Lordship, trusting His love and purpose.
- Ask God to heal any brokenness from past hurts and help you forgive others and yourself.
- Seek wisdom to balance truth and grace in your relationships and witness.
- Pray for strength to obey God’s commands, even when it’s difficult or countercultural.
- Thank God for His enduring love and faithfulness, as described in Psalm 100:5.

Additional Resources

- **Read:** *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves (referenced in the sermon) for a deeper understanding of God as a loving Father.
- **Scripture Study:** Spend time studying the context of 2 Timothy 4:1-5 and 1 John 2:15-17 to understand their implications for preaching and living out faith.
- **Counseling Support:** If past hurts are hindering your ability to trust God, consider meeting with a pastor or a Christian therapist, as suggested in the sermon.

Closing Challenge

The sermon ends by asking, “If you could pinpoint one thing in your life that is keeping you from fully surrendering to God’s total management of your life, what would it be?” Take time to identify that one thing. Write it down, pray over it, and commit to giving it to God this week. Trust that He is working for your good and the good of others.