

Thank you for downloading one of the eight, five-session small group studies from *The Pursuit*.

*The Pursuit* is a 40-week, video-driven small group study for men. Each session features a video from best-selling author, Rick Burgess, and a small group leader guide. You can purchase all 40 weeks, or purchase the eight, five-week sessions independently.

If we can help answer any questions about *The Pursuit* or any other of the Iron Hill Men resources, please don't hesitate to email ([customer care@ironhillpress.com](mailto:customer care@ironhillpress.com)) or call (800) 307-9366



# SURRENDER

A 5-WEEK, VIDEO-DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP  
CURRICULUM FOR MEN

BY RICK BURGESS

**SURRENDER: A 5-WEEK, VIDEO-DRIVEN  
DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM FOR MEN**

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**IRON HILL**  
MEN  
A MINISTRY OF IRON HILL PRESS

**LUKE**  
**9:23**  
**THE MAN CHURCH**  
BE A MAN...FOLLOW JESUS

PUBLISHED BY IRON HILL MEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MAN CHURCH

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# DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS

## DISCIPLE MEN, CHANGE EVERYTHING.

There is a discipleship problem affecting Christian men today. Too often, men are absent from both the church pews and from the vital work the church is doing in the world. These men are not engaged spiritually in their homes and aren't making a Kingdom impact in their workplace. And it all points back to one major issue:

Many men aren't being discipled.

But when men ARE being discipled, powerful things happen as a result. They impact the church, their family, and culture. We have seen the influence godly men can have. The purpose of *The Pursuit* curriculum is to equip and empower men to become the man God has called them to be.

## WHAT IS THE PURSUIT?

*The Pursuit* is a 40-week, video-driven curriculum designed to help men live out a masculinity that is found in the person and example of Jesus. *The Pursuit* takes eight core characteristics that Jesus embodied and fleshes each one of them out through video and small group Bible Study.

Rick Burgess, best-selling author and co-host of the nationally syndicated radio show *The Rick & Bubba Show*, starts off each session with a 10-15 minute video introducing the session's focus. Then, for each small group session, there is a leader guide to help facilitate a meaningful time of discussion and Bible study.

The reason men aren't living a more authentic faith is simple: they have yet to embrace the call to real discipleship. By leading a group through *The Pursuit*, you're a part of the growing tide of men who are looking to awaken men to embrace their calling as Christ-followers.

# START HERE

One of Winston Churchill's most famous speeches during World War II ended with the admonition to his people, "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds . . . we shall never surrender." Is there anything less manly than surrender?

And yet, at the core of what it means to pursue a Christ-like masculinity is a call to surrender. In fact, without truly surrendering your life to Christ, it's impossible to be the man God intends you to be. It's that simple.

As we will see in these five sessions, there is no weakness in surrender. There is no loss. When we surrender to Christ, we gain only strength. We experience only victory. It's a powerful reality that is at the very heart of what it means to be a Christian man. Prepare yourself to be challenged this week to evaluate your level of surrender to Christ.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

**FIRST**, preview your video. Every *Pursuit* session starts with a video. You'll need to preview your video ahead of time and be prepared to show it to your group. You can access your videos through your Iron Hill Press account.

**THEN**, get ready for your small group discussion and Bible study by preparing your lesson. Use this leader guide to help lead a time of discussion based on the video and Bible study based on the passage Rick covered. Pray that God would lead your preparation and your facilitation of the material.

**FINALLY**, lead your time of small group Bible study using this leader guide. It's that simple.

If you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to let us hear from you at [feedback@ironhillpress.com](mailto:feedback@ironhillpress.com).

- **Main Passage:** James 4:7-8
- **Secondary Passages:** James 2:18-19; Romans 10:9-10
- **Purpose:** To understand that total surrender to the authority of Christ is the standard for godly men.
- **Session Snapshot:** One of the most important things a man can do is to know who He is. For those who have professed faith in Jesus, the answer to “Who am I?” is easy. You are God’s. You belong to Him. Your identity is hidden in Christ with God (Col. 3:3). This powerful truth is foundational for us as Christ-followers. Before we can lean-in to what it means to be a man, we must first grasp what it means to have our identity found in Christ.

## GETTING STARTED

*Kick-off your time together by introducing a new theme or reviewing what you did in the last session.*

FIRST, explain to your group that they will be beginning a video series on surrender that is part of a larger study on what it means to pursue a masculinity that is centered in Christ. Say something like:

- **Many men around us live what may be described as a weak faith. Their faith doesn’t influence all aspects of their life. They are not spiritually influential in their homes or workplaces. If they attend church, they only consume and do not contribute. And yet some men have a vibrant faith. These men see the world around them through the lens of their relationship with Christ. They serve their family and their church. They boldly impact their world around them for the sake of Christ. What is the difference between these two types of men? Surrender. The men living lives of impact are men who have surrendered fully to God. As we pursue a Christ-centered masculinity, we must grasp the concept of surrendering our lives to the will of God. This unit will help us understand exactly what this looks like.**

If this is your first session as a group, consider introducing yourself, if necessary, and having the men in your group introduce themselves. Then, ask for volunteers to share what they want to get out of their time in this study. If you want to pass around a contact sheet or do any other first-session “housekeeping tasks,” this is the time to do it.

FINALLY, if there are no questions or other input, transition into the *Digging In* section of your leader’s guide.

## DIGGING IN

*Jump into the session by watching this week’s video.*

FIRST, if you have any new participants, explain to them the basic structure of your time together. Explain that you will watch a video that is usually about 15 minutes long, followed by a short discussion of the video. Then, you’ll spend a few minutes in Bible study, followed by a closing activity. Encourage them to take notes as they watch the video.

THEN, play the video. You can access the video by logging into your Iron Hill Press account.

When the video is over, lead men in a short discussion based on what Rick covered. Feel free to come up with your own questions, or consider asking some that are similar to those below:

- **What are some rituals or practices that we may intend for good, but can get in our way of total surrender to Christ?**
- **What is the difference between attending church and belonging to a church?**





## SURRENDER

# SESSION 1

- **How does “cultural Christianity” blind us from our need to surrender?**
- **What are some benefits of being present in church, surrounded by other believers?**
- **Submission or surrender can often be seen as passive. How is surrendering to Christ active?**
- **How is submitting our sin to God different from submitting our lives to God?**

FINALLY, transition into the Opening the Word portion of your time together by saying something like the following:

- **To surrender means to cease resistance to another person or thing, and to submit to their influence or authority. Let’s spend a few moments looking more intently at the passages Rick mentioned and see precisely why surrender is so key to our pursuit of a masculinity rooted in Christ.**

## OPENING THE WORD

*Spend time going deeper into a specific concept Rick introduced in the video.*

FIRST, explain that you’re going to take a more in-depth look at James 4:7-8, James 2:18-19, and Romans 10:9-10. As Rick alluded to in the video, surrender or submission is attention-grabbing. It’s counter-cultural. Scripture is clear on the authoritative role that Jesus is to have in our lives. These passages highlight the need for us to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus, not just calling on Him as the Savior.

We must make sure your people have a good understanding of the context of the passage you’ll be studying. Because we have multiple passages to discuss, provide a broad context for each passage using the following bullet points:

- **James was written by Jesus’ half-brother, James, one of the leaders of the Jerusalem Church. He wrote the book to help believers live out their faith. More importantly, it is written to address the social conflict between rich and poor and the spiritual conflict between factions in the church (Jews and Gentiles, mostly). James is full of direct commands to the reader and thus is known as a practical book.**
- **The ESV Study Bible states the theme of Romans as “the revelation of God’s judging and saving righteousness in the gospel of Jesus Christ.” Romans is Paul’s fullest expression of theology. He wrote Romans so that they would be united in the gospel he preached, and so that they would comprehend how the gospel spoke to the issues that divided them.**

THEN, read or have a volunteer read James 4:7-8. When the volunteer has finished, lead the group in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **What comes to mind when you hear the word “submit”?**
  - Answers will vary. Explain to the group that the word comes from a Greek that means “to place or rank under.” This translation can also be phrased as “to subordinate, to obey, to be subject to, or to submit.”
- **Can you think of any other examples where the word submit is used in Scripture?**
  - Answers will vary. But the word is used approximately 38 times, depending on your translation. Specifically, in James 4:7, we see that we must “Submit (our)selves... to God.” This is the same verb used in 1 Peter 2:13 and 5:5 when Peter calls for believers to “be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him” and “you who are younger, be subject to the elders.”
- **What is the common thread here?**
  - Answer: Compelled and revered obedience. We are to submit and obey God as our Father and Creator, the ultimate source of power and wisdom.

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **Submission is a laying aside of all that we are. Our wants. Our desires. Our plans. When we submit ourselves to God, we are saying, “Here I am God. Use me. Lead**



## SURRENDER

# SESSION 1

### **me. Guide me. I need you.”**

NEXT, direct your group's attention to and read James 2:18-19 and Romans 10:9-10. Then, ask:

- **We see the word believe used in two different contexts here. What do you think “believe” means in James 2? What do you think “believe” means in Romans 10?**
  - Answers will vary. The same Greek word is used in both places. The word means “to believe, or to entrust.”
- **If we agree that the implications of “believe” are different in these two passages, what is the difference between the two?**
  - Answers may vary. The difference is just like Rick talked about in the video: action. The people in James 2 believed. They had faith, but there was no evidence. There was no action. The kind of belief found in Romans 10 calls us to action. We are to “confess with [our] mouth that Jesus is Lord AND believe in [our] heart that God raised him from the dead” in order to be saved. James 4 calls us to, as Rick said, “Submit. Repent. Draw near.” Action!
- **Why is it important for us to take action in our surrender?**
  - Answers may vary. Rick's story is the perfect example. We might “believe” we are a Christian. We might believe that because we prayed a prayer or were even baptized (maybe even twice!). Belief is hollow when it is not accompanied by a conviction to action. There must be evidence of our faith and total surrender to the wisdom, teaching, and saving grace of Jesus is the only way to produce that evidence.

FINALLY, have a volunteer read James 2:20-22 and 25. Then, say something like:

- **We can easily interchange belief with faith and action with works. Now, some of you might be thinking that James is contradicting Paul's statement in Ephesians 2:8-9 that “by grace you have been saved through faith... not a result of works.” In reality, there is no distinction between faith and works; Paul and James would agree that the basis of salvation is grace alone through faith. Our righteous actions are not the basis, but the necessary result of our faith.**

Ask if there are any questions, and if there are none, transition into *Accepting the Challenge*.

## ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

*Focus your group's attention on one key takeaway from your time together.*

FIRST, explain that you want to challenge the group to focus on one main takeaway from this session. Say something like:

- **Whenever we're faced with a concept like we have been studying today, it forces us to respond in evaluation. As we wrap up our time here, there are at least three different questions we can ask to evaluate ourselves.**

- 1) After listening to Rick and studying these passages of Scripture, we need to ask ourselves, “What evidence is there that my faith is being made complete by my works?”
- 2) If you are having a tough time answering that first question, you might need to ask yourself, “When did I surrender fully to God? Or have I just been surrendering my sin and hanging on to the rest of it?”
- 3) If you know that you have surrendered fully to Jesus, ask yourself, “If I have not surrendered my life to Christ, what is stopping me?”

Allow the group to consider where they find themselves on this spectrum of evaluation. If it feels appropriate, allow there to be some discussion about the kind of evaluation they find themselves considering.

FINALLY, encourage men to process these questions in the week to come. Challenge them to listen to what God is trying to tell them, and to respond accordingly. If there are no more questions or input, close your time together in prayer.