



Group Guide

Called to Surrender

August 17, 2025

Main Passage: Isaiah 6:1-10; Jonah 3:1-5; Acts 13:1-3

Theological Theme

We may say we understand the importance of the gospel and our call to share it, but we must also surrender to God's will and the mission He has given us: acting in obedience to the mission.

Introduction

- ? What about sharing the gospel is intimidating to people?
- ? What kinds of things hold you back from sharing the gospel?

1. Listening in Obedience (Isaiah 6:1-10)

In this passage, the prophet Isaiah saw a vision of the heavenly throne room, and what a sight it was! In this holy place, the Lord was seated "high and lofty" (v. 1) on His throne, and Isaiah recorded that "the hem of his robe filled the temple" (v. 1). Above the Lord were seraphim. Isaiah described them as each having six wings they used to cover their face, their feet, and to fly. With their voices, they offered worship before the Lord (v. 3).

- ? What effect did the presence of God have on Isaiah in this passage?
- ? Isaiah was reoriented by God's presence. How does the same happen for us?
- ? Application: Why is it important for us to be willing when God calls us?

2. Reluctance in Obedience (Jonah 3:1-5)

This is one small snippet of Jonah's story, another in a long line of ordinary people God called to extraordinary purposes. In Jonah's case, upon hearing God's call the first time, Jonah didn't surrender to God's will. In fact, he tried to head in the opposite direction from where God told Him to go. Running in the opposite direction of God's call is a temptation many of us have faced.

- ? What do you know about Jonah's story and what happened prior to this passage?

- ❓ How do these verses reveal God's grace to Jonah and to Nineveh? What do we learn about Jonah from these verses?
- ❓ Application: How does the story of Jonah give us hope when we think about God using us to lead others to Himself?

3. Acting in Obedience (Acts 13:1-3)

The church at Antioch was made up of believers with different giftings, who were intentional in their faith with action like worshipping and fasting. As they worshipped, the Holy Spirit prompted them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for specific work God had in mind for them.

- ❓ What was the context for the events that take place in these verses? What does this tell us about how we might also seek to hear from God?
- ❓ What did the Holy Spirit call for, and what was the result?
- ❓ Application: What does this teach about surrendering to God's will for our lives? Where do you need to surrender?

Conclusion

Just like the many ordinary believers we see God call in Scripture, God wants to use you to share the gospel with those in your life. Are you asking Him to send someone else or saying, "Here I am. Send me"?

- ❓ What are some simple things we can do to better listen for and surrender to God's will in our lives?
- ❓ If God can work through us no matter what, why does it matter if we surrender to God's will in our lives?
- ❓ What is holding you back from sharing the gospel? Have an honest, gentle discussion about worries and hesitations and how to submit those before the Lord.