



Small Group Guide: The Gift of Myrrh - A Life of Surrender

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to speak to each person about what He's calling them to surrender, and for the courage to actually do it.

Icebreaker

What's the most unusual or unexpected gift you've ever received? How did you respond to it?

Sermon Summary

The sermon explores the gift of myrrh brought to baby Jesus by the wise men—a burial spice that prophetically pointed to both His death and the way He would live His entire life: in complete surrender. Jesus' life was "bookended by myrrh," from the wise men's gift to Nicodemus bringing 75 pounds of myrrh to prepare Jesus' body for burial. The central message: **The way Christ died shows us the way we are to live—a life of surrender.**

Key Scripture References

- **Matthew 2** - The wise men bring gifts including myrrh
- **John 10:17-18** - "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord"
- **John 6** - "I have come to do the will of him who sent me"
- **Luke 22:42** - "Not my will, but yours be done"
- **Mark 10:45** - Jesus came to serve and give his life as a ransom
- **Hebrews 12:2** - For the joy set before him, he endured the cross

Discussion Questions

Understanding Surrender

1. **What does it mean that myrrh was "the perfect gift" for baby Jesus?** How does this change your understanding of the Christmas story?
2. **The sermon stated: "Surrender is the way forward in the kingdom."** How does this contrast with the world's message about control, success, and self-determination?
3. **What's the difference between saying "Jesus, I have room for you in my kingdom" versus "I want to abandon my kingdom to take part in yours"?** Which one more accurately describes your current relationship with God?

Jesus' Example of Surrender

4. **Review the ways Jesus demonstrated surrender in His life** (surrendering His time, to the Word, in prayer, His mornings, etc.). Which of these examples challenges you most? Why?
5. **Jesus said "no one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord."** What does this teach us about the nature of true surrender versus forced compliance or defeat?

Personal Application

6. **The sermon listed several "gifts" God might give us in 2026 that are opportunities for surrender:**
 - o 365 mornings
 - o Your spouse
 - o Your children
 - o Responsibilities
 - o Your daily planner
 - o Difficulty
 - o Blessing
 - o The church
 - o Prayer (on your knees)
7. **Which of these resonated most with you? Why?**
8. **"Do you think your life smells like surrender?"** What would someone close to you say about this? What evidence would they point to?

9. **The pastor mentioned people in their church saying "Whatever you want, God" when they come to the end of themselves.** Have you ever had a moment like that? What led to it, and what happened as a result?

Moving Forward

9. **What's the "thing" you're white-knuckling at the end of 2025?** What would it look like to surrender that specific thing to God?
10. **The sermon emphasized that "the only things that matter" happen on our knees in prayer.** How does this challenge your current approach to problems, planning, and productivity?
11. **"God is calling us to be a people who lead on our knees and fight on our knees."** What would change in your life if you truly believed this?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Myrrh represents a life of complete surrender**—Jesus' entire life, from birth to death, was characterized by laying down His will for the Father's will.
- ✓ **True freedom is found when we surrender our kingdom for His**—We don't make room for Jesus in our kingdom; we abandon ours to join His.
- ✓ **Surrender is active, not passive**—Jesus chose to lay down His life; surrender is a daily, intentional choice we make.
- ✓ **Everything God gives us is an opportunity to practice surrender**—From mornings to marriages, from blessings to burdens, each is "myrrh" in our lives.
- ✓ **Kingdom work happens on our knees**—Prayer isn't just preparation for the work; it IS the work.

Practical Applications

This Week:

1. **365 Mornings Challenge:** Commit to starting each morning this week with a specific prayer of surrender: "God, this morning is yours. My plans are yours. My time is yours."
2. **Identify Your "Thing":** Write down the specific area God is calling you to surrender. Be honest and specific. Share it with one trusted person for accountability.

3. **Surrender Audit:** Choose one area from the sermon's list (spouse, children, responsibilities, planner, etc.) and evaluate: Am I controlling this or surrendering it? What would surrender look like practically?
4. **Prayer Posture:** Physically get on your knees at least once this week to pray. Notice how the physical posture affects your spiritual posture.

Looking Ahead to 2026:

5. **Create a "Myrrh List":** Instead of just a goal list for 2026, create a surrender list—areas you're committing to lay at God's feet throughout the year.
6. **Weekly Surrender Practice:** Schedule a recurring time each week (Sunday evening, Monday morning, etc.) to review your week and consciously surrender your plans for the week ahead.
7. **Communion Reminder:** The next time you take communion, remember it as a practice of surrender—His body and blood for yours, His life becoming yours.

Closing Reflection

Silent Reflection (2-3 minutes): In silence, ask God: "What is the specific thing You're asking me to surrender right now?" Listen for His answer.

Sharing (Optional): If people feel comfortable, invite them to share what God revealed to them during the silence.

Closing Prayer: Pray for each person by name, asking God to give them:

- Clarity about what to surrender
- Courage to actually surrender it
- Confidence that God's kingdom is better than their own
- Commitment to live a "myrrh life" in 2026

For Further Study

- Read through one of the Gospels this week, specifically looking for examples of Jesus surrendering (His time, plans, comfort, reputation, etc.)
- Study Philippians 2:5-11 on Christ's ultimate act of surrender
- Reflect on Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ..."