

PrayKids!

ADVENTURES WITH JESUS IN PRAYER

The Word On...

Surrender

Surrender means to give up or hand over something. So when you **surrender** to God, you let go and let God be in charge. Even though everything about you already belongs to God (because He created everything in the first place), **surrendering** shows Him you really believe that. **Surrender** is a way to tell God that there's nothing more important than Him.

When you **surrender** to God, prayer is always the place to begin. That way, you and God can talk through what you need to **surrender** and how to do it. You may find that you need to **surrender** things like dreams for the future or expectations about how things will turn out . . . maybe even parts of yourself. Just remember as you pray that God is good and wants only good for you. If He asks you to give up or hand over anything, He's got something much better in mind for you! ★

"Say 'uncle'!" When we were kids, my older brother would wrestle me to the ground and force me to say those words that meant, "I give up. I'm the loser!" You've probably seen movies where the good guys surround the bad guys. The good guys yell, "Come out with your hands up!" When the bad guys realize they are outnumbered, they have no choice but to **surrender**. Usually the guys who **surrender** are the losers.

But in the Bible, surrender means something completely different. It's not a bad thing or a sign of weakness. People who **surrender** their lives to Jesus are not losers—they're winners!

continued on page 2

I Surrender!

By Dick Eastman

Mud Pies

Trevor lived in a run-down house in a poor part of town. He didn't have a yard to play in, just a vacant lot with lots of mud.

The city was hot and noisy and smelled bad. There was nothing to do but play in the mud. Every day he would take his bucket and shovel and make mud pies.

One day Trevor's rich aunty invited him to the beach. Trevor hadn't been to the beach before. His aunty said it would be lots of fun, but he couldn't

imagine it. He decided to stay and play in the mud.

So Trevor missed out on:

- swimming in the ocean
- diving in the waves
- collecting pretty seashells
- feeding seagulls
- eating saltwater taffy
- building sand castles
- and feeling the sand between his toes.

He just kept making mud pies. ★

—The idea for this story comes from C.S. Lewis's book, *The Weight of Glory*.

(continued from page 1)

Jesus said: "If people want to follow me, they must give up the things they want. They must be willing even to give up their lives to follow me. Those who want to save their lives will give up true life, and those who give up their lives for me will have true life" (Matthew 16:24-25, New Century Version). When we give ourselves up to Him, God is so pleased that He "trades us up" to something better—something that we can't even imagine.

When I was a teenager, I learned about **surrender** in prayer. I began playing the trumpet when I was 13. I became the best trumpet player in the school band. I thought playing the trumpet would be my career.

One day I was working at my job at a grocery store. A man came up to me and said, "I hear you play a mean trumpet!" Smiling, I asked him how he knew. He explained that he needed a trumpet player for his new rock band. My high school band director had suggested me. He offered me a job with the new band.

I was tempted. I could make a lot more money! Maybe I would even become famous and travel all over the world! So I prayed about it. Even

though I really wanted to be in the rock band, I **surrendered** it to Jesus. I didn't want to join the band if Jesus had a different plan. I prayed, "Lord, I want only Your will for my life." Guess what? He showed me that the band was *not* His will for me!

Later, I found out why. God wanted me to go to Bible college. I received a scholarship to lead a trumpet trio that traveled across America! Not only did I play the trumpet, but Jesus trained me to be a leader. Today I lead a ministry that tells people about Jesus in more than 100 countries. My wife and I have traveled more than 40 times around the world! Playing in a rock band would be *nothing* compared to the joy I have today serving God like this! I'm so glad I **surrendered** myself to God in prayer so many years ago.

What about you? Are there things you need to **surrender** to God in prayer? Remember, saying "uncle" to God is never a loss. It's always a win! ★

Dick Eastman is international president of Every Home for Christ.

PrayKids!

Email: praykids@navpress.com
Website: www.praykids.com

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Cynthia Bezek, Lani Hinike, Sandra Higley

DESIGNER: Bridget McNamara

ADVISORY TEAM

Kim Butts

Harvest Prayer Ministries

Cheri Fuller

Families Pray USA

Members of the Children's Prayer Mobilizers Network

© 2004 Pray! 3820 N. 30th St., Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

For editorial inquiries write to: PrayKids!, P.O. Box 35004, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3504. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Mission Statement

The mission of PrayKids! is to teach, encourage, and equip children (ages 8-12) as they develop a deepening relationship with Christ through prayer, so that they might become more effective prayer warriors.

Encourage Your Kids

If your child has a story of an answered prayer, how his/her life was impacted by prayer, or how his/her class prayed and something special happened, please send it to:

PrayKids!
P.O. Box 35004
Colorado Springs, CO
80935-3504
Email:
praykids@navpress.com

While we cannot publish everything that is sent in, we will put some additional stories up on our website. www.praykids.com



Signs and Wonders

One day, as my family and I were on the familiar trip to school, I saw a billboard with Joe the Camel advertising a new kind of cigarette. I said to my mom, "Mom, if smoking is wrong and bad for your body, then why would people try to get you to buy cigarettes?" My mom told me how some people are more interested in money than in a person's health. I thought for a minute and asked if we could pray that the sign would fall over.

My mom gave me a look that said *Yeah, right*, but she agreed to pray with me about it. So each morning as we passed the billboard, we prayed. The prayer was simple. We just said, "Lord, we know that this sign advertises something that isn't

good for our bodies, so could you just take it down or make it fall over?"

My sisters and my mom and I all took turns praying. After about a week of this, we saw that a small corner of the billboard was beginning to tear. A few days later we looked and I said, "Mom, that tear is getting bigger!"

She looked up. I was right—the tear was bigger, a lot bigger. Each day, more and more of the billboard ripped off. After about two weeks of asking for the Lord's help, the rip got so big that you couldn't even read the sign anymore.

The next time we drove by the billboard, it was totally blank. Someone had pulled the rest of it down and there was a number at the bottom of the sign to call if you wanted to put your advertisement there.

My mom was totally amazed, but I thought, "Yeah, God!" I asked for help and the Lord did just what I asked Him to do.

This happened when I was six, and I'm 12 now. As I think about it, I probably had more faith when I was little. I think so many times we hear the Lord telling us to do something, but we say no because we aren't quite sure if it will work. When God says something, you have to say, "I'll do whatever you want me to" and then do it, even if it seems impossible. Because nothing is impossible with God. ★



By Marta Eimer

Getting ~~My~~ His Way

Surrender is easier if you know that God is the Good Guy—and His way is the best way—all the time!

1. Make a list of God's characteristics (qualities or traits that make Him special). Ask God for help, and look up these Scriptures to get you started: 1 John 4:16; Lamentations 3:22-23; Romans 2:4.

2. List ways God has proved He is good (in the Bible and in your family). Examples: told Noah to build an ark; came to die for our sins; provides you with a home, clothes, food. But don't stop there—think of more!

3. Are you asking God for something and finding it hard to **surrender** your will to His? Ask Him to help you imagine what might happen if you get your way instead of His.

Here's a sample of a **surrender** prayer:

*Lord, I know that Your ways are not my ways. You have a wonderful plan for me. You are working through things that happen in my life for the end result of good. Help me know You better so that I want to **surrender** my will to Yours (Isaiah 55:8; Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28; 1 John 4:7-8)! ★*

The Heart-Pounding Hike

A fictional story based on Genesis 22

My father was a hundred years older than me. But you'd never know it. He waited many years for God to keep His promise of a son. So . . . I'll admit . . . once I came along, he spoiled me. My name, Isaac, means laughter. We laughed a lot—working, hiking in the mountains around Beersheba, even wrestling together. Sometimes I let him win!



4

By Joyee K. Ellis

ILLUSTRATION BY ANNE KENNEDY

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Read Hebrews 11:17-19. Fill in the missing letters below.

Abraham could surrender to God because he knew that . . .

God is ____oly. He would never do anything evil.

God is trus____worthy. He always keeps His promises.

God is faith____ul. He never turns away from us.

God is alm____ghty. He could bring Isaac back to life if necessary.

God is ____ll-wise. He knows what is best and what will make us stronger.

Now unscramble the letters to spell out what it took for Abraham to **surrender** his hopes and dreams—along with his son—to God: **Abraham was able to surrender because of his great _____ in God.**

You can too! ★

I love the way my father totally trusted God. He told me he'd made enough mistakes in his life. "I must obey God no matter how difficult His instructions may sound," Father always said. He said it again on the day we took the hike to Mount Moriah.

That morning he hugged me awake. "I've saddled the donkey," he said. "The servants are waiting. Let's go." His words sounded cheerful, but his eyes looked strangely sad.

I jumped out of bed, threw some water on my face, and scrambled to catch up. As we hiked up the mountain, we talked about friends, dreams, and things Jehovah had taught my father as he prayed. We slept under the stars two nights. On the third day, our steps slowed.

"Where are we going?" I asked for the umpteenth time. "And why?"

"To sacrifice to God," Father said. He pointed forward with his walking stick. "There's the place ahead."

"Sacrifice?" I frowned. We had no animals with us.

"I know this doesn't make sense to you, Son." Father turned to the servants. "Stay here. Isaac and I are going over there to worship. Then we'll come back."

Lifting a bundle from the donkey, Father strapped the wood on my shoulders. Then he stuck his knife in his sash and grabbed the fire-starting flint.

I looked around. "We have flint and wood, but where's the lamb for the offering?"

"God will provide," Father murmured as we plodded on.

When we reached the place, Father said, "Isaac, sometimes God asks us to do things we don't understand. He has asked me to **surrender** what I love more than my own life. I must sacrifice you, Isaac, the son I awaited for so long." He lowered his head and tears splattered into the dirt.

My heart beat faster. Other religions required child sacrifices, but not Jehovah!

"I don't know how this is going to work," Father said, "but God has promised that your grandchildren

will number more than the stars in the sky."

Within minutes I lay on the altar like the sheep I'd seen sacrificed many times.

Pain filled Father's eyes. "My son, I must **surrender** and watch how Jehovah keeps His promise." Raising his knife, he rested his trembling hand over my eyes.

I held my breath. I was more frightened than I had ever been, but I knew I had to trust God, too.

"Abraham!" a voice from heaven boomed. "Don't lay a hand on that boy! Now I know you fear God."

I opened my eyes. The bushes behind us rustled and a ram emerged. Father's knees buckled.

The voice thundered again: "Because you were willing to give me your dear son, I promise you'll have more children than the stars in the sky! I will bless all nations because you obeyed me."

Father hugged me so hard I thought I'd burst. He helped me down, and we worshiped Jehovah together. As the sun set, and a multitude of stars came out overhead, we left the place Father called "The Lord Will Provide." What began as a heart-pounding hike ended with a beautiful promise from God. ★

Author and speaker Joyce K. Ellis created the book, *One-Minute Bible Devotions for Kids* (Broadman & Holman), an enjoyable way for children to listen to and respond to God's Word each day of the year. See more of her stories and puzzles when you go to her website (www.joycekellis.com) and click on Kids' Corner.





Let's Pray for Kids in the 40/70 window

God has given a new idea to people who pray for the world. The idea is for everyone to focus on praying for people in the 40/70 Window. Look at the map to find the 40/70 Window. It covers 62 nations!

Centuries ago, much of this region was Christian. But communism and other human belief systems took over. These belief systems taught that God is not real (or that people cannot know for sure if God is real). The good news about Jesus dying on the cross got choked out.

Then in 1989, communism fell apart. Now people in that part of the world are free to believe whatever they want to about God. A lot of them still call themselves Christians because of old traditions. But they have never asked Jesus into their hearts. Most have never even heard the gospel. Many of the religious traditions they follow include idol worship. The Muslim religion is also very common in these countries.

Since 1989, millions of Christians all over the world have been praying for the 10/40 Window.



The 40/70 Window includes the territory between 40° and 70° latitude in the Eastern Hemisphere.



(That's the part of the world between the 10th and 40th parallel. See the *PrayKids!* Intercession issue.) Most of the people who have never heard the gospel live in this area. As a result of all of these prayers, lots of missionaries are going into the 10/40 Window. Lots of people are finding Jesus!



Now, through a project called "Target 40/70," God is asking people to pray for the 40/70 Window. He wants the good news about Jesus to spread

there the same way it did in the 10/40 Window. You can be a part of that. God can use you to be a world changer there, too! ★



PHOTO BY CALEB PROJECT ©1996

SIX

COVER THE GLOBE

Prayers for People in the 40/70 Window

1. Holy Spirit, release Your truth over every 40/70 nation (John 16:13).
2. God, give wisdom to those who are sharing Jesus in the 40/70 Window. Show them how to reach Muslims there. Give the people dreams and visions of the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 2:7; Acts 9:1-5).
3. Lord, please keep the door open for workers to go to all the former USSR nations and Eastern Europe to share the

- good news. Provide everything they need to succeed (1 Corinthians 16:9; Matthew 9:37-38).
4. Father, please tear down the human traditions and worldly principles that have replaced You in the 40/70 Window nations (Colossians 2:8).
5. Jesus, move the hearts of these nations' leaders. Help them to understand who You are (1 Timothy 2:1-3). ★



Put a Lid on It!

A situation that requires **surrender** isn't usually something you know about ahead of time. It may come up suddenly, out of nowhere. You find out that your family needs to move, for instance. Or a friend starts acting like an enemy. Or the dentist says you need braces.

You can get ready for those unexpected times by making a "**surrender** box." Find a box you really like. It could be a cookie tin, a heart-shaped candy box, a cylinder-shaped oatmeal box, or a shoebox. Make sure it has a lid. Paint designs on the box, or glue on beads, seashells, or other favorite things. Make it special. Put it someplace where you'll see it all the time.



When God asks you to **surrender** something to Him, write it on a piece of paper. Now put the paper in the box, closing the lid. Lift it high and tell God, "Take this! It's Yours! You're good, I trust You, so I **surrender!**"

If staying **surrendered** is hard—often it is—hold your box up to God again and ask for help. Keep the lid on the box so you can't take back what you've **surrendered**. And thank Him that He's still in control! ★

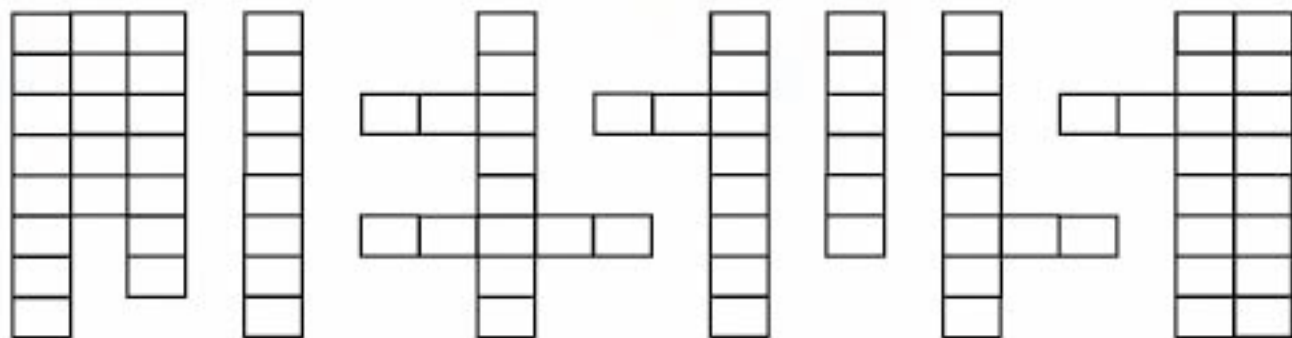
More Than Meets the Eye

Things may not always be the way they seem. When you put 2 and 2 together, it can equal 4. But you can also put 2 and 2 together and it's 22!

The Bible says that God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. We don't see things the way He does. For instance, to us it might look like we have to give up a lot when we **surrender** ourselves to God. But God will only ask

us to **surrender** something when He wants to give us something far more valuable in its place.

Here's a fun way to see how there's more than one way to look at things. With a black crayon, pencil, or marker, color all of the boxes below. If you look at it one way, you will only see blackened-in boxes. If you look at it another way, you will see someone's name—someone who *really* knew how to **surrender**. ★



Get a new outlook on life. Try to see things from God's perspective!

Fill'er Up

When God calls us to **surrender**, it often comes as a surprise—just like Abraham was surprised when God asked him to **surrender** Isaac. Often, like Abraham was, we're asked to **surrender** something that's not bad. It may even be something very good. **Surrender** requires us to give up what God asks us to, *when* He asks us to. Here is an activity you can do to help children better understand what **surrender** is like and why it's important.

8

Next time your children tell you they are thirsty, give them a full glass of water (or whatever beverage you usually offer them). But before they have a chance to sip it, stop them. Ask them if they trust you. They may act surprised or confused. That's okay. Ask them again if they trust you. If they say they do, then ask them to go to the sink and pour out the drink. They may or may not be willing to do this. If they are hesitant or upset about your request, remind them that you love them, want what's best for them, and always will provide for their needs. Reassure them that

you would never intentionally trick them or hurt them. Then ask them again if they trust you and if they will pour out the drink. If they pour out the drink, great. If they are not willing, don't force them.

Go to the refrigerator and bring out a beverage that is a special treat—maybe a soft drink, chocolate milk, or a fruit smoothie. Explain that right from the start you wanted to give them this special drink. If they dumped



By Cynthia Hyle Bezek

the water, fill their glass with the special beverage. If they didn't, explain to them that you are sorry that there's not room in their cup for the special beverage this time, but you'll give them another opportunity soon (then repeat the object lesson the next time they ask for a drink).

Discuss how pouring out the cup is like **surrendering** to God. He wants to do wonderful things in our lives, but we need to make room for them. Sometimes the things God asks us to **surrender** are valuable and good. But we cannot hold onto what *we* want—even if it's good—and receive what God wants at the same time. It's one or the other. It's always worth it to "pour out" our will in order to allow God to pour His good, pleasing, and perfect will into us.

Richard J. Foster, in his book *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, offers some good meditative prayer steps you might take with your family when **surrender** issues arise. See the *PrayKids!* leaders' guide at www.praykids.com for Foster's steps to **surrender**, as well as other activities on **surrender**. ★

FREE

LEADER'S GUIDE for Teachers and Parents

Did you know we have a **free** leader's guide with extra activities, questions, and prayer points to go along with each article in *PrayKids!*? Go to www.praykids.com and select "Parents and Teachers." Then select which issue you want and just click on the article title. Download what you need so you can use *PrayKids!* with a group of kids.

Back issues of *PrayKids!* are available in packs of 10 for \$6.99. Eighteen different topics/themes (with new ones released bimonthly) to teach groups of kids about prayer. To order, go to www.praykids.com, or call (800) 366-7788 or (719) 548-9222, and mention offer #6258.