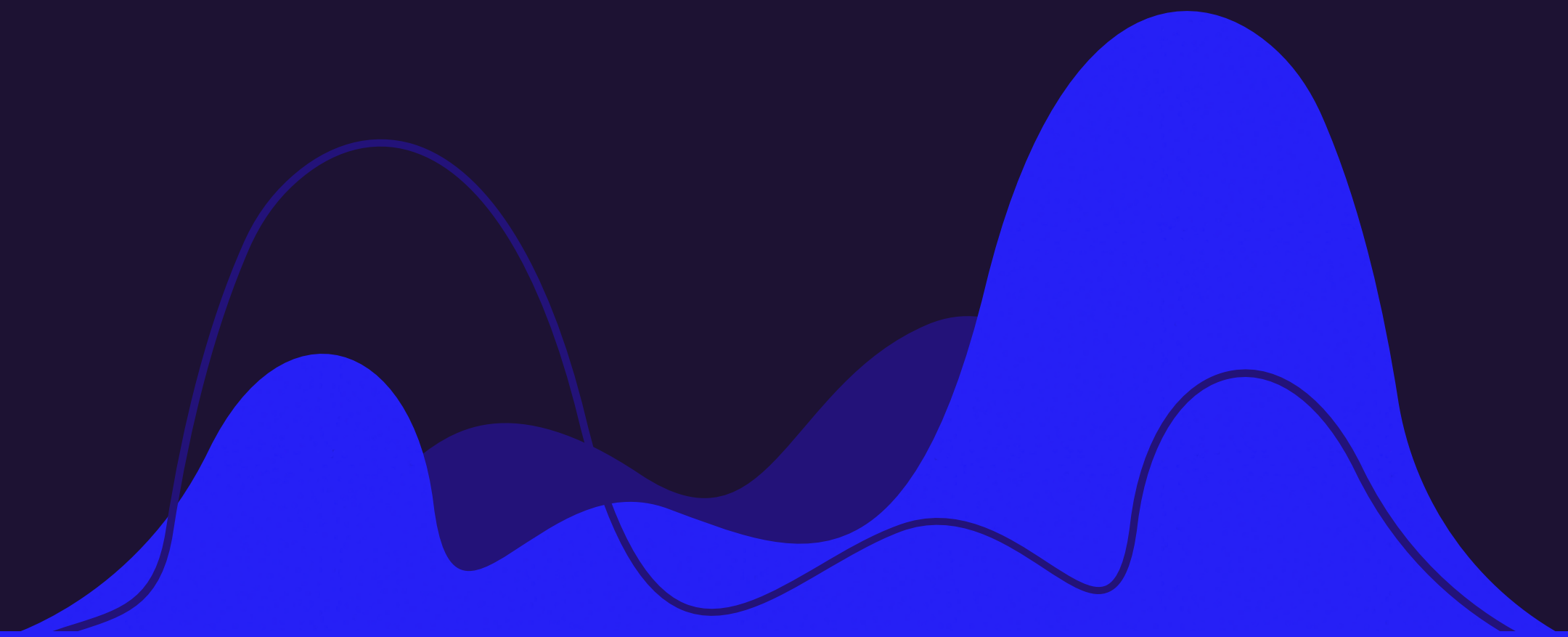


From The Ground Up

Discovering The Secret Of
Spiritual Growth



Week #4: The Surrendered Heart



Contents

How To Lead Your YCI Club:

● **Play**

Play a game together.

● **Pray**

Spend time praising and thanking God in prayer.

● **Grow**

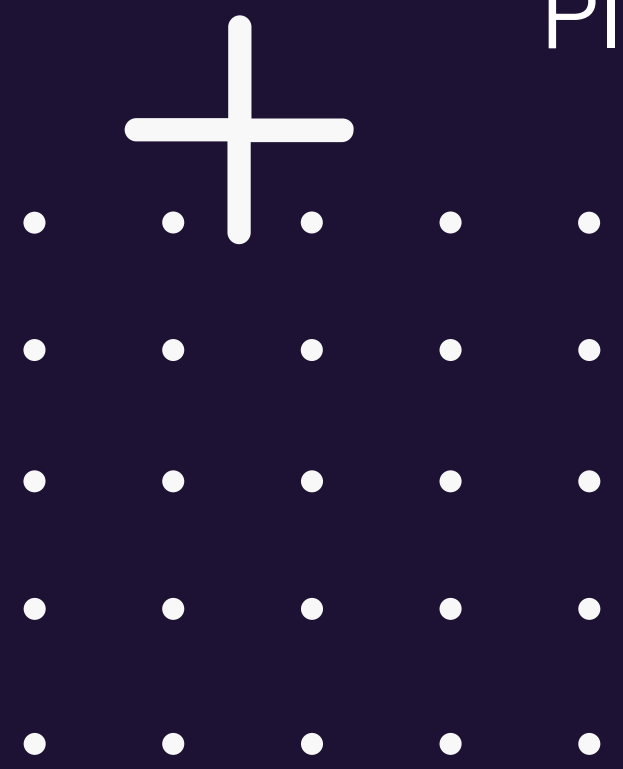
Learn from Scripture about who God says He is and how we should respond to Him.

● **Go**

Look for opportunities to share the Gospel, and serve others in your community with your YCI club members.



MUSICAL SHOES



This game is a twist on "Musical Chairs"! First, one person should be chosen as the "Music Master". Next, the rest of the YCI club should form one large circle. Once the circle is formed, everyone should toss one of their shoes into the center of the circle. The Music Master will then remove one shoe from the circle and begin singing or playing a song. While the music is playing, everyone should walk around the shoes in a clockwise motion. When the Music Master pauses the song, everyone should race to the center and put on a random shoe. Since there is one less shoe than there is players, one person won't be able to put on a shoe. This person is out of the game. This process should continue until there is only one person left. The last person standing is the winner of the game!



Ask God For His Will To Be Done In These Areas:



Club Time

Pray that God will speak to everyone in the room through His Word.



Group Needs

Take time to discuss and pray over the personal needs and requests of those in attendance.



School Community

Ask God to move in situations that are unique to your school and community.

What Is The "Secret" Of Spiritual Growth?

In Mark 4:1-9, Jesus shares a simple parable that has profound implications. If the disciples don't understand this parable, they won't understand any of His teachings (Mark 4:13).

In His explanation in Mark 4:14-20, Jesus highlights three primary elements that are essential to our growth as Christians:

1) **The Sower:** God is the ultimate creator and sustainer of life, and He will forever be the "Sower". Jesus Himself is the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form (Col. 2:9).

Without surrendering to God, we have no hope of growing in Him.

2) **The Seed:** This is the Word of God (Jesus Himself revealed in the Bible) given by the Sower. God's Word will remain steadfast forever (Is. 40:8). It is the *only* source of absolute truth, and it holds the answers to the questions of our world.

3) **The Soil:** This represents the heart (mind, will and emotions) of the person that the Sower (God) sows the Seed (the Word) into. This is the *only* ingredient of spiritual growth that is within our power to develop.

In each installment of this curriculum, we will look at one of the four "heart" conditions (described using soil) to discover how we can better understand God's Word and walk in our purpose!



The Surrendered Heart

Mark 4:8/20 (ESV)

The Illustration

"8 And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." 9 And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear.""

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(Mark 4:8 ESV)

The Explanation

"20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

• • •
(Mark 4:20 ESV)



What Are The Signs Of A Surrendered Heart?

+ **Familiarity With God's Word**

The first sign Jesus gives of "good soil" (a surrendered heart) is "hearing the word" (Mark 4:20). It is impossible to grow without reading the Bible! In Matthew 7, Jesus describes the Word as the solid foundation on which we build our life. As we continually read Scripture in community and in private, we are familiarizing ourself with the truth!

+ **Faith In God's Word**

Not only does a surrendered heart hear the Word, but a surrendered heart "accepts it" (Mark 4:20). In order to grow as Christians, we must first decide that God's Word *really is* perfect. Until we make this decision, we will treat Scripture as a suggestion rather than a command, and we will constantly question God's faithfulness. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn. 1:1). If we question the reliability of God's Word, we are questioning God Himself!

+ **Fruit From God's Word**

In Galatians 5:22-23, the Apostle Paul describes the "fruit" that comes from a surrendered heart: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control. If this list does not describe your life, it may be an indication that your heart is not fully surrendered to God.



Let's Talk About This

Small Group Questions If Time Allows

Question 1



What is one thing that "jumped out" to you while reading these verses?

Question 2



What are some practical things we can do to become more familiar with God's Word?

Question 3



Is the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22-23) evident in your life? Which areas do you see the greatest need for growth?



Consider This Before You Leave

Big Idea

In order to grow in Christ, we must move past having a *divided, shallow or distracted* heart. The signs of a *surrendered heart* are *familiarity* with God's Word, *faith* in His reliability and *fruit* in our character.

Sharing Truth

Who is someone in your life that needs to hear about what we discussed today? Pray for them, and find time this week to encourage them.

Meeting Needs

What is something your YCI club can do to show God's love this semester?



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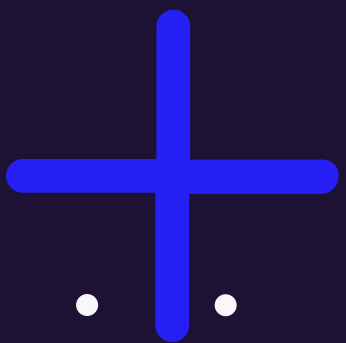
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