

# Introduction

*Teach Me Your Way* is a study for junior high students on surrendering to Jesus in salvation and submitting to His way in obedience. Although created to worship God, man is prone by nature to worship the creation rather than the Creator. We are inclined to pursue the temporal benefits of this physical world over the eternal treasure of knowing Christ. Only God can open blind eyes to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. Surrendering to Christ in salvation involves the mind, heart, and will of the person and true saving faith results in submission to the will and ways of Jesus.

The evidence of a surrendered heart is obedience and the mark of the obedient heart is reflected in the true righteousness of the person who has “put off the old self” and has “put on the new self.” Though perfect righteousness has legally been imputed to the believer through the cross, the life of righteous living, though imperfect till heaven, can be reflected in the believer here. The righteous heart attitudes and actions taught in the Sermon on the Mount are a picture of the “already but not yet” perfected believer.

Because sin is subtle and man’s nature is sinful, Christians must encourage each other daily to submit to God and to resist sin until Jesus returns and we reflect the perfection of the character of Christ.

This curriculum is not intended to be an exhaustive study of the Sermon on the Mount, but rather a study of surrender to Christ in salvation and subsequent submission to His way using the Sermon on the Mount to demonstrate the character of the true believer. Note that although the words “surrender” and “submission” could be used interchangeably, in this curriculum “surrender” is used to refer to a person’s initial surrendering of themselves to Jesus in salvation and “submission” to refer to the daily acts of obedience of a surrendered heart.

The lessons alternate between a large group teaching time and small group discussions. Small group discussions take place at the end of the lesson as well as during the lesson. Personal application is especially stressed during the final application time. Students are encouraged to take notes in a Student Journal during the class and to complete journal exercises during the week. As an additional activity, girls may read *Hinds’ Feet in High Places* by Hannah Hurnard at home. This allegory is a helpful picture of submission to Jesus. Parents are encouraged to read *The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer with their sons or daughters. The goal of this reading time together is to encourage spiritual discussion between the parent and the student. The book itself is a great encouragement to junior high students to take their spiritual life seriously.

## God-Centered Curriculum

Children Desiring God curricula are birthed by a passion for presenting the truths of the Bible in a God-centered way. The chief end of man is to enjoy God. He is the priceless treasure. But our hearts are so often inclined to the idols of this world. *Teach Me Your Way* is a study of surrendering to Jesus in salvation and submitting in obedience to His way. Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount is a call to the Christian to reflect the character of God and is the evidence of a surrendered heart. While this character is not perfectly reflected by the Christian in this world, Christians are called to battle daily against our sin nature until the return of Jesus Christ, when our righteousness will be perfected.