

The image features a person in silhouette jumping from a parachute. The person is positioned in the lower right, holding onto the parachute's suspension lines. The background is a light beige color with large, bold text. At the top, the word "SAY" is written in large, dark blue letters. Below it, the word "YES" is written in large, white letters. At the bottom, the words "TO GOD" are written in large, dark blue letters. The text is arranged in a way that the person appears to be jumping from the word "YES" towards the word "TO GOD". The top of the image shows the colorful canopies of several parachutes in shades of yellow, red, blue, green, and orange.

# SAY YES TO GOD

**A CALL TO COURAGEOUS SURRENDER**

FORMERLY *DANGEROUS SURRENDER*, NOW UPDATED AND EXPANDED



# A CALL TO COURAGEOUS SURRENDER

Your life was designed for far more than just the accumulation of things and the accomplishment of daily tasks. You were created for an adventure of trust. The adventure begins by letting go, taking a leap of faith, and saying YES to the God who deeply loves you.

With raw honesty, Kay Warren goes straight to the heart of the matter: courageous surrender. Kay's journey has taken her from her neighborhood into real villages, filthy brothels, sanctuaries for the dying, and into the marble hallways of power. God wants to use you too, wherever you are, as his hands and feet in a broken and hurting world. Take the leap. Discover a trustworthy God who will use you to change the world.

# SUGGESTED PREPARATION

**BEGIN WITH PRAYER.** Prayer is your most powerful tool — make it a point to pray before you form a group, before each meeting begins, and during the week for each group participant.

**DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS.** Remember to show love to your group members. A suggestion is to contact each woman throughout the study to encourage and love her. You can do this via phone, social media, email, or in person.

**LEAD WITH A HUMBLE AND CARING ATTITUDE.** Ensure that each group member has a copy of *Say Yes to God* and ask each group member to read the first chapter before the first meeting. When someone answers a question, make an encouraging or affirming comment. Refrain from using your time as “group therapy” and instead focus on allowing each individual to discover her own personal experience insights. Finally, expect that everyone in the group will be significantly impacted by their experience through this study of *Say Yes to God*.

## GROUP GUIDELINES

**CONFIDENTIALITY.** Confidentiality is the most important guideline. Under no circumstance should shared personal information be mentioned or discussed outside the group.

**GROUP MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES.** Encourage all members to read the designated chapter(s) each week.

**GROUP DYNAMICS** Since group discussion time will last around two hours, consider a group size of eight to ten members and allow time for each member to offer something that she would like to discuss from the reading. Your challenge will be to prevent any individual from dominating the discussion and ensure that everyone is included. Finally, keep advice general — refrain from giving advice to specific individuals.

# Study Guide

## Chapter One THE LEAP OF FAITH

1. Have you ever experienced God persistently working to direct your attention to some relationship, issue, or cause? If so, describe a major turning point in your realization.
2. Kay describes the frustration of thinking that the AIDS pandemic was such a gigantic problem that she, as an ordinary person, wasn't equipped to make a difference. Consider two or three world problems that deeply trouble you. Do you believe you can have any significant impact on these problems? Why or why not?
3. Consider this chapter's examples of Mary and the McClendons as lives courageously surrendered to God. Name a biblical character or contemporary example that impresses you as a life courageously surrendered. How do these stories speak to you? Identify the factors that draw you to these examples.

## Chapter Two THE KINGDOM OF ME

1. Make a list of the key reasons you don't want to get too involved with people in dire need. Reflect on Kay's question, "Who or what can change your perspective in such a way that instead of living to serve yourself, you actually *want* to live to serve someone else?" How would you answer this question?
2. Kay explains that her growing understanding of God's sovereign design created an expectation that God would someday use her for his good purposes. Describe your current sense of the purposes God may have in store for you.
3. Kay describes the WITTY principle and then concludes, "Figuring out [God's] ways isn't any of my business. Following him is." Which of God's ways have been most challenging for you to accept and follow?

## Chapter Three GLORIOUSLY RUINED

1. Kay describes being “gloriously ruined.” In your own words how would you define her meaning of this phrase? Do you find the prospect of being gloriously ruined repulsive, frightening, attractive, or desirable? Why?
2. Kay asks, “In what ways are you allowing [God] to rearrange your schedule, your finances, your affections, so you can regularly interact with those he loves?” How would you answer this question?
3. The final paragraph of the chapter describes the paradox of becoming seriously disturbed and gloriously ruined as the best thing Kay has ever experienced. Given the “cost” she has described, what do you understand as her reason for feeling that the benefits far outweigh the cost? Name some of your own challenging circumstances where the rewards outweigh the very high cost.

## Chapter Four READY, SET, STOP

1. Consider a detour in your own life — a time when you suddenly found yourself facing an unwelcome change in direction. At the time, how did it affect your understanding of and relationship to God?
2. Kay identifies two choices in the face of crisis: pull away from or turn toward God. Apply these two options to the scenario in question 1 above. Imagine the actions and results involved in pulling away from God. Imagine the actions and results involved in running toward him. Discuss what you discover during this exercise.
3. Read Job 23:8-10, then reread verse 9 aloud. Note the phrase “When he is at work.” Picture your greatest suffering or fears as north, east, south, and west, then read the paragraph surrounding Kay’s motto, “Control the controllables and leave the uncontrollables to God.” What would you need to surrender to join Kay in her refrain?

### **Job 23:8-10 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup>“But if I go to the east, he is not there;

if I go to the west, I do not find him.

<sup>9</sup>When he is at work in the north, I do not see him;

when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him.

<sup>10</sup>But he knows the way that I take;

when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.”

## Chapter Five EXPOSING EVIL

1. Do you identify with Kay's desire to change the channel to avoid exposure to the evil in our world? With what emotions and thoughts did you struggle as you read this chapter?
2. What weapons has God provided for our battle against evil? Choose one in which you find the most encouragement, and explain why.
3. Kay describes what God does not want us to do in the face of evil. Identify the undesirable response into which you are most prone to slip. What could strengthen your resolve to avoid that response?

## Chapter Six MIRRORS DON'T LIE

1. What does Kay mean by the phrase "The mirror doesn't lie"? Were you taken aback by the shift from righteous indignation to the dramatic statement "The harsh reality is that given the right circumstance, any one of us is capable of any deed"?
2. How would you summarize this chapter's connection between understanding our own depravity and our personal involvement in ministering to the needs of others?
3. As you review this challenging chapter, look for all the good news, naming every positive truth you find encouraging. How does this final exercise affect your response to this chapter?

## Chapter Seven THE GIFT OF PRESENCE

1. Discuss the various levels of impact we can have on those in need:

- providing physical labor
- speaking words of truth
- simply being compassionately present

Do you tend to place a higher value on one over the others? Why or why not?

2. How might the thought of being a *container of God* influence your impression of what you have to offer to a hurting world?

3. Why did many of the residents of the leprosarium in the Philippines who were already cured of leprosy remain there? Compare their experiences with that of people who bear the “scars” of broken lives as they consider visiting or joining a church.

## Chapter Eight A DELIBERATE CHOICE

1. Reread the quote from Lewis Smedes on page 171. Has anyone ever willingly entered into your life’s pain in the way Smedes describes? Have you ever felt God’s pull to do so in the life of another? Describe what happens in the heart of a sufferer who is on the receiving end of such mercy.

2. Consider these words: *shocked, angry, frustrated, guilty, troubled, wrestling, resistant, stirred, hopeful, inspired, called, compelled*. Choose the three words that come closest to describing what you are experiencing as you are reading this book. Explain your choices.

3. Discuss specific opportunities you’re become aware of in which you could invest yourself in compassionate service.

## Chapter Nine AN UNEXPECTED BOND

1. Kay writes, “There were profound spiritual truths hidden in that encounter with these outcast women.” Discuss the truths you find in this encounter and identify the most unexpected insight you gain.
2. Read the following verses recounting the emotions that Jesus felt: Matthew 21:12; 23:37; Luke 13:15-16; 17:2; John 11:35. Compare those emotions with what you have felt as you have read this book so far.
3. The title of this chapter is “An Unexpected Bond.” Select one unexpected insight that you have found particularly meaningful.

### **Matthew 21:12 (NIV)**

*Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.*

### **Matthew 23:37 (NIV)**

*“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.”*

### **Luke 13:15-16 (NIV)**

*<sup>15</sup>The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? <sup>16</sup>Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”*

### **Luke 17:2 (NIV)**

*It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.*

### **John 11:35 (NIV)**

*Jesus wept.*



## Chapter Ten LINKING ARMS

1. Reread Acts 26:12-23, then focus on verses 17 and 18. As you anticipate your next twelve months, is it conceivable that you are also being “sent off”? If you were to choose an area of service, what might it be? Does this question fill you with anxiety or anticipation?
2. In the midst of her discussion of the history of the Christian church, Kay asks the question, “So why would I put any faith at all in such a ragtag bunch of losers? Because God does.” What is your understanding of why God works through people rather than solely through divine, supernatural means?
3. “We don’t go after global Goliaths armed only with our personal slingshots,” writes Kay. Reread her description of how the body works together. How can your local church — how can you — link arms to join the movement to become God’s hands and feet for a broken world?

### Acts 26:12-23 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup>“On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. <sup>13</sup>About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. <sup>14</sup>We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

<sup>15</sup>Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. <sup>16</sup>‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. <sup>17</sup>I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

<sup>19</sup>So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.

<sup>20</sup>First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. <sup>21</sup>That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. <sup>22</sup>But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—<sup>23</sup>that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

## Chapter Eleven WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DIE FOR?

1. Kay writes, “Most of us are called to pay a much smaller price, although each point of surrender can at times turn into high drama as we play tug-of-war with God.” What are the “high drama” points in your tug-of-war with God thus far in your life? What part have they played in your developing maturity?
2. What great surrender challenges do you see ahead? Do you find yourself dreading them or eagerly awaiting them? How can such challenges craft you into Christlikeness?
3. Of all the stirring images in this chapter, which had the most profound effect on you? Why?

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Questions written by Cindy Lambert, adapted by the Office of Kay Warren. Kay Warren, author of *Say Yes to God: A Call to Courageous Surrender*. Please visit Kay’s website at [www.KayWarren.com/SayYestoGod](http://www.KayWarren.com/SayYestoGod) for additional resources. She is also on Facebook (KayWarrensPage), Twitter (KayWarren1), and Instagram (KayWarren75).