

Bucket Talk – The Sacrifice 2010 week 3

What are some other words for Sacrifice?

Surrender – Giving up, or resignation.

Forfeit – Abandon, be deprived of. Give up something in sacrifice.

Relinquish – Throw aside. Give up a right, position, or power.

Bible Verses

John 15: 12-13 This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

1 John 3:16-17 This is how we have come to know love. He laid down His life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has this worlds goods and sees his brother in need but shuts off his compassion from him-how can Gods love reside in him.

Laying Yourself Down for Another

In baseball and softball, a sacrifice occurs when a batter gives up an out to advance a base runner. Typically the batter bunts the ball slowly on the ground so the runner on base has enough time to move ahead one base safely. Although the batter is typically thrown out at first base, the out is traded for a run or moving the runner on base into scoring position.

Another common sacrifice is when the batter intentionally hits a fly ball, knowing that he or she will more than likely be out. The runner waits for the fielder to make the catch, tags from third base, and advances home.



There are many examples of sacrifice, including the sacrifices made by many heroes of war. They are willing to fight, and even die to gain political or physical freedom for their country. Many call this “the ultimate sacrifice”. In the Book of John, Jesus says that this sacrifice is the purest example of love, *“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”*

Indeed, Jesus also demonstrated this when he died on the cross. He didn’t have to, but he laid down his own life, so that we could have freedom from an eternal separation from God. Jesus was born into humanity, and lived a sinless life. He accepted the penalty for a crime that he did not commit. He sacrificed his own life on earth so that his friends (you and I) could advance home... to be united with God for eternity.

Most of us will never be asked to lay down our life for a friend. But are we willing to lay aside or delay our plans, or dreams for the benefit of a friend? Are we willing to always do what is best for the team? Will we hustle even when we don’t feel like it? Do we choose to back-up our teammates in plays and throws? Will we choose not to be critical of a teammate when they aggravate us?

A baseball or softball game is usually not won with a walk-off homerun in the bottom half of the last inning. The game is typically won by doing many little things well. In baseball, softball and in life, people impact and touch lives when they consistently do a lot of little things well, even if they don’t see a benefit personally. Being kind to a new student at school, showing courtesy to your mother, standing up for a teammate, or being respectful to a teacher are not hard things to do. But these acts may require a sacrifice of self. To be **Selfless** and not **Selfish**.