

(B) Each of the stories below illustrates the power of surrendering to God’s will and trusting in His faithfulness, even when the outcome is unknown.

1. Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:1–19)

God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac, the child of promise. Though it was a heart-wrenching command, Abraham trusted God and was willing to surrender what he held most dear. At the last moment, God provided a ram for the sacrifice, showing His faithfulness and rewarding Abraham’s obedience.

2. Hannah Surrenders Samuel (1 Samuel 1:1–28)

Hannah, who was barren, prayed fervently for a child and promised to dedicate him to the Lord if her prayer was answered. When God blessed her with Samuel, she kept her vow, surrendering her beloved son to serve in the temple. Her relinquishment led to Samuel becoming one of Israel’s greatest prophets, judge, and wise leader of Israel.

3. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36–46)

Before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed in deep anguish, asking if the cup of suffering could pass from Him. Yet, He surrendered fully to the Father’s will, saying, “Not my will, but Yours be done.” His ultimate act of relinquishment led to the salvation of humanity.

4. Moses’ Reluctant Call (Exodus 3–4)

When God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses initially resisted, citing his inadequacies. But Moses surrendered his fears and doubts to God’s plan, becoming God’s vessel for His people’s deliverance.

5. The Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:7–16)

During a famine, the widow of Zarephath had only a handful of flour and a little oil left to feed herself and her son. When the prophet Elijah asked her to bake him bread first, she obeyed, surrendering her limited resources. God miraculously provided for her household, and her jars of flour and oil never ran out.

6. Paul’s Transformation (Acts 9:1–22)

Paul (formerly Saul) was a zealous persecutor of Christians. After encountering Jesus on the road to Damascus, he surrendered his old ways, his reputation, and his life’s purpose to follow Christ. Paul’s relinquishment led him to become one of the most influential apostles and vessels in spreading the Gospel.

7. Mary’s Submission to God’s Plan (Luke 1:26–38)

When the angel Gabriel told Mary she would conceive the Messiah, she could have responded with fear or doubt. Instead, she surrendered to God's plan, saying, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled." Her submission played a central role in God's plan for salvation.