

Follow Jesus

LORD OF ALL

Lord of All



EVERY NATION
P R O D U C T I O N S

Lord of All

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CONTENTS

Introduction v

1. Lord of All..... 1

2. Lord and Savior 5

3. Lord over Our Relationships..... 12

4. Lord over Our Money and Resources 17

5. Lord over Our Time21

6. Lord over Our Life’s Work25

7. Lord over Our Bodies.....30

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, we have fully embraced the truth that Jesus is our Savior. We know He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He died the death that was meant for us so that we could have life and live with Him for eternity. But receiving Jesus as our Savior is just one side of the coin. He is not just our Savior—He is our Lord. What does it mean to receive Jesus as our Lord?

The word “Lord” in the Bible finds its roots in the Hebrew language. *Adonai* was used as one of the various names of God. It denotes respect, honor, and reverence towards the Almighty. When the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek, the word *Kyrios* was used as an equivalent. In Greek culture, *Kyrios* encompasses meanings such as power or might, and master, owner, or ruler.

What we need to understand is that Jesus is not an ordinary Lord. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Lord of all creation—*all things were created through him and for him* (Colossians 1:16). He has been declared as *King of kings and Lord of lords* (1 Timothy 6:15). This only means that there is no higher authority than Jesus—a truth His disciples understood clearly. When He declared Himself as the Messiah and the Son of God, they acknowledged Him as their “Lord,” giving their allegiance to Him and submitting their lives to His divinity and supreme authority.

This material aims to help us understand what it means to live our lives under Jesus’ authority. Having established Himself as the rightful ruler of all, how are we to respond? Recognizing Jesus’ Lordship is transformational, influencing our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Since He is our Lord, we are to wholeheartedly obey Him. This includes not only the way we live, but also the way His rulership is advanced here on earth. Our lives should point people to Him.

May we continually exercise the grace of God that enables us to follow Jesus as Lord, entrusting ourselves to His loving care and seeking to bring glory to His name. May we intentionally live our

lives in a way that would draw people to Him and proclaim His kingdom on earth.

Other materials available for Victory groups, which can provide a foundational understanding on Jesus as Lord, include:

- *Kingdom & Discipleship*
- *God & Government*
- *Who is God?*
- *Who is Jesus?*

1 Lord of All

WARM-UP

- Share a situation where you had to prioritize one thing over another. How did you make that decision?
- Think of a person you admire or look up to. What qualities or characteristics made you admire him or her?
- Name a person who has had a significant impact on your life. What made him or her influential?

WORD *⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

The kingdom of God and the Lordship of Jesus Christ has been central to the gospel message that Jesus, the apostles, and the early disciples proclaimed in the New Testament. This truth has many facets and implications, of which two stand out—Jesus' position as Lord of all and how He practices His Lordship. In this lesson, we will focus on the first of these facets and its implications on how we respond to Him and how we live our lives.

1 | As Lord of all, Jesus is first over all.

⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11**

When we confess Jesus as Lord, we are acknowledging that He is preeminent over all. Though being Himself equal with

God, Jesus humbled Himself taking on the form of a man and obeyed the Father by dying on the cross on our behalf (Philippians 2:5–8). Therefore, God the Father has placed all things under Him and no one in all of creation is greater or higher than Him.

Jesus is elevated to a position of supreme authority and honor, deserving of our allegiance, reverence, and worship. His Lordship extends over all creation. Every knee should bow down to Him and recognize that He is ruler over all. In light of this, how should we view the rulers and authorities in this world and in our lives? How does Jesus' humility and sacrifice affect your view of Him as worthy of all your life?

2 | As Lord of all, Jesus is first before all.

³⁷"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." **MATTHEW 10:37–39**

When we confess Jesus as Lord, we are to put Him before everything and everyone else in our lives. He is our top priority. Our love for Him should take precedence even over the closest and most cherished relationships, such as with family. He should take precedence even over our own lives. Following Jesus requires surrendering our own desires in order to follow Him wholeheartedly. This means that Jesus deserves our utmost devotion, loyalty, and commitment.

How can we recognize and live out Jesus' Lordship in our earthly relationships?

3 | As Lord of all, Jesus is first in all.

¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

*¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **COLOSSIANS 1:16–18***

Declaring Jesus to be first in all emphasizes the extent of Jesus Christ's authority over every aspect of our existence. He is not just a category in our lives that comes before all other categories. He is to have dominion over all of life's different areas. These include our bodies, mind, emotions, and will. They also include our family and relationships, money and resources, time, work, ambitions, and career. Recognizing His preeminence in all these areas requires surrendering them to His authority, seeking His guidance and wisdom, and aligning our actions to His will. How have you experienced this in your own life?

APPLICATION

- What challenges do you encounter in submitting areas of your life to the Lordship of Jesus? What truths about Jesus and the gospel can help you overcome this challenge?
- Take a moment to evaluate your priorities. Are there any areas where you have placed something or someone above Jesus? How can you align your priorities to His Lordship?
- Reflect on the areas of your life where Jesus is already acknowledged as Lord. How does submitting to His authority in those areas bring about peace and fulfillment?

PRAYER

- Pray for a renewed understanding of the greatness and majesty of Jesus as Lord of all. Ask God to deepen your awe and reverence for Him.
- Pray for a deeper revelation of Jesus' Lordship in your life and a willingness to surrender all areas to Him.
- Ask for wisdom and strength to prioritize Jesus above all other things, relationships, and commitments.

2 Lord and Savior

WARM-UP

- Share a story of a leader (from any field or domain) whom you admire and explain what it is about their leadership style that you find inspiring.
- Reflect on a time when you observed a leader displaying empathy and compassion. How did their actions impact the people they were leading?
- Have you ever experienced a situation where someone's authority or leadership was misused or abused? How did it affect you or others involved?

WORD *⁴²And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

MARK 10:42-45

(Read also **LUKE 6:46-49** and **PHILIPPIANS 2:3-11**.)

The gospel message that Jesus, the apostles, and the early disciples preached in the New Testament has been centered on God's kingdom and Jesus Christ's Lordship. Because He is Lord of all, we are to worship and serve Him, put Him first before all, and we are to submit all of the different aspects of our lives to Him.

Now, let's examine how He practices His Lordship. We may know of people with a title or position who have different styles of leadership. How they get people to follow them differs from leader to leader. Today, we will see how Jesus practices His Lordship, particularly how it relates to Him being Savior. There are

many who put His being Savior with Him being Lord. However, we will discover that these two roles of Jesus are actually integrated and work harmoniously together. As we see how Jesus leads, we will be transformed and motivated even more to put Him first and submit to Him every aspect of our lives.

1 | Jesus' practice of Lordship is not through the use of authority to compel obedience.

⁴²And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. . . ." MARK 10:42-43

In teaching His disciples on what greatness in His kingdom is like, Jesus first explained what it should not be like. This is in contrast to His practice as Lord and King in His kingdom. He taught His disciples that leadership in His kingdom is not about lording over their followers nor exercising their authority to compel compliance. What does this kind of worldly leadership sound like?

"I'm your boss. You need to follow my orders or you're fired!"

"I'm your husband and the head of this household. As my wife, you must never disagree with me and always do exactly what I say."

"I'm the mayor and you are just a government employee. You cannot question my decisions."

Jesus is the model of leadership and greatness. When He instructs His disciples how they should not be like in His kingdom, it means that He also does not practice His Lordship in that manner. Though Jesus is indeed Lord and deserves our complete submission and obedience, the way He leads and directs us is not through use of position or authority. It is not through threats of punishment to compel compliance. He is not a malevolent dictator who goes power-

tripping and demands obedience just to show us who's the boss. Have you ever viewed God as a strict dictator? If so, how has this affected how you relate to Him?

2 | Jesus' practice of Lordship is through serving and saving.

⁴³"But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **MARK 10:43-45**

⁴⁶"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great." **LUKE 6:46-49**

Jesus taught His disciples that those who are great actually serve and those who are first are the slave of all. This was not just a lesson on how Christians are to be servant-leaders. This was a lesson on Lordship as well. Who is the greatest and first in the kingdom of heaven if not Jesus Himself, the Lord and King? His people are to follow His example. He did not come to demand service—He came to serve and to give His life in ransom for people. So, if leadership and greatness in Jesus' kingdom is about service and sacrifice, then the

greatest, the kingdom's Lord and King, is the one who served and sacrificed the most. In other words, the greatest expression of Jesus' Lordship is when He sacrificed His life to ransom us and be our Savior. The point of His Lordship is not only to glorify the Father but also to serve and save His people.

In Luke 6:46–49, Jesus explains why He wants people to obey Him. It is so that they will be protected and not be destroyed when the storms of life hit. He is not calling for obedience simply to show us who is the boss. He is calling people to hear and obey Him so that they will be spared from the trials and challenges to come. He wants us to surrender our relationships to Him because He wants to spare us from bad ones. He wants us to surrender our finances to Him because He wants to save us from the harm that comes from the lack of wisdom and from the love of money. He wants us to submit our career, ambitions, hopes, and dreams to Him because He wants the best for us and wants to protect us from having the wrong ones. This is true for all the different areas of our lives. How have you experienced protection in the midst of the challenges you experience as you submit to Jesus' Lordship?

3 Jesus' practice of Lordship makes Him worthy of worship, service, and obedience.

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore

God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

Who would you willingly and gladly follow: a boss who only thinks about himself or a boss who is always concerned about the welfare of his employees and makes decisions for their good? Would you rather serve out of fear and compulsion or out of love and devotion?

Jesus, though being God, did not seek to hold tightly to His position, but instead willingly humbled Himself to obey the Father and died on the cross to save us. Because of this, the Father exalted Him and placed Him over all so that everyone should bow down and submit to Him. He is worthy of all honor and allegiance because of what He did.

In light of this, the more we understand that Jesus could have demanded service and sacrifice yet instead served and sacrificed, the more we would want to serve and sacrifice for Him. Jesus alone is the leader truly worthy of our trust, allegiance, loyalty, and devotion. When He commands or calls us to obey Him, it is not for our harm but ultimately for our good. The more we realize this, the more gladly we will submit to His Lordship. He is both our Lord and Savior.

4 | Jesus' practice of Lordship is an example for us to follow in our leadership.

⁴³"But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **MARK 10:43-45**

*³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **PHILIPPIANS 2:3-7***

It is when we appreciate how Jesus is Lord over us and leads us in order to serve and save us that our practice as leaders is also transformed. All of us are or will be leading people in different ways and areas of our lives. As we do so, let us follow the example of Jesus. We are not to use our position of authority to compel people to follow us. We don't have to rub it in other people's faces if we are in a position of power or authority. Rather, seek to humbly serve others and treat them as better than you. Are there instances where you were tempted to use your position or influence to coerce others to do what you want? How does knowing Jesus help you exercise loving and serving leadership?

APPLICATION

- What is one takeaway from this topic that struck you personally? How could this change the way you walk with God beginning today?
- There are stark differences between Jesus' leadership and the world's ways. What is one way you can reflect Jesus' leadership at home, at work, and in other areas?
- As you follow Jesus and walk in His ways, think of one person you can help follow Him as well. Pray for opportunities to converse with this person about the gospel.

PRAYER

- Spend some time in silence adoring and praising Jesus for how He served and saved us. Thank Him for His sacrifice that enables us to have a relationship with Him.
- Pray for a greater revelation of the Lordship of Christ. Ask God for the grace to obey and follow Him in areas He may be pinpointing in your life today.
- Ask God to help you become more like Jesus as you relate with and lead others. Pray that as you reflect Jesus in your life, more people will grow in faith and in their desire to follow Jesus as well.

3 Lord over Our Relationships

WARM-UP

- Who is the friendliest person you know and admire? Why?
- How do you respond to conflict or disagreement? For example, do you talk it over immediately or take time to process your thoughts?
- What do you think keeps a friendship or relationship going?

WORD *¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **COLOSSIANS 3:12-17***

As creatures made in the image of God, the need for connection is deeply ingrained in our being. Isolation from human relationships is not God's design for us. This is why we try to build relationships naturally and do our best to invest in essential relationships. Yet, as we walk with people over time, we face the realities of offense and failed expectations. Relational hurts and pain are part of our fallen reality. As followers of Christ, He has not left us clueless as to how we can navigate these realities. Jesus wants us to trust Him in His grace and in His ways, even

in this area. The following statements are foundational for our relationships to grow under Christ's Lordship.

1 | Trusting in Jesus as Lord means having compassionate and forgiving hearts towards others.

*¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **COLOSSIANS 3:12-13***

In every relational tension, there is an invitation for us to go back to Christ's finished work so that we may live at peace with our fellow believers. By His grace, He made us holy and beloved. We were chosen and forgiven, and we are loved eternally. In light of this, we are empowered to be compassionate, kind, humble, meek, and patient towards others, especially those closest to us. When we see God's patience and forbearance and the more we reflect on Christ's suffering to bring forgiveness, we are enabled to bear with one another and forgive as Christ forgave us. Share a moment where you lost your cool and gave in to your negative emotions. How did God bring you back to a right heart with Him and with the person you may have had an outburst with?

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2 | Trusting in Jesus as Lord means embracing God's love to unite us.

*And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **COLOSSIANS 3:14***

Unity in our relationships isn't something we can manufacture. God, through His love, empowers us to live in unity with Him and with others who have received and embraced Him as well. The more we understand God's love for us, the more we grow in our love for our fellow brothers and sisters whom He also loves.

Unity does not demand uniformity. We can still have our personal preferences and differences, yet still be united in our hearts to honor God in the way we see and treat each other. Share a time when you still remained as friends with churchmates who had very little in common with you.

3

Trusting in Jesus as Lord means pursuing peace in our relationships.

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:15-16

The peace of Christ refers to the wholeness and wellness that only He can bring. It does not necessarily mean the absence of friction or chaos. In fact, even in the midst of it, we can have assurance and hope in Jesus. As light conquers darkness, peace rules over relational brokenness and becomes the necessary guard for our hearts and minds. This is where God's word is to constantly flow in our hearts and minds. His word reminds us that as believers, we are all part of one body. We all belong to Christ and to one another. When God's word lives in us richly, it teaches and

guides us, causing us to exhort one another with wisdom and thankfulness. What are some of your best practices in pursuing peace in your key relationships?

APPLICATION

- Which of the points from this topic resonated with you the most? Why? How will the way you approach your relationships change in light of it?
- What issue could be causing distance or disunity in one of your key relationships? How is God telling you to handle this situation? What steps can you take to grow in this relationship despite your differences? With whom can you be accountable in this area?
- Who is part of your church community? How can you follow Jesus' example of compassion and forgiveness, living in unity and peace with each other?

PRAYER

- Spend time in silence adoring and thanking Jesus for how He has restored us to a right relationship with our heavenly Father. Meditate on Christ's humility to willingly and passionately sacrifice Himself for His Church.
- Ask God to reveal any relationships that need restoration and healing. Pray for these relationships and ask God for wisdom, forgiveness, and grace.
- Pray that God would enable you to be gentle, humble, meek, and patient with others, especially those you may have a difficult time relating with. By faith, receive the wisdom and insight of the Holy Spirit as you prayerfully study God's word and humbly ask others for help as well.

4 Lord over Our Money and Resources

WARM-UP

- What is one item that you have wanted to purchase but is still on your wishlist or in your online shopping cart?
- Name a wealthy person you admire and share why.
- How do you manage your finances and resources? Share one of your best practices.

WORD ¹⁹*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. . . . ²⁴No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”* **MATTHEW 6:19-21, 24**

Since Jesus has come into our lives, we now have a new Master. He is loving in His leadership and faithful in His commitment to shepherd us and make sure all our needs are met. Yet, our tendency is to rely on our might and strength, so that we would be secure financially. What are the implications of making Jesus our Lord, especially in the area of our money and resources?

1 Trusting in Jesus as our Lord means serving Him rather than our resources.

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” **MATTHEW 6:24**

The Bible has a lot of passages on money and material possessions. This is because the subject of money and

possessions are very important because they could affect us not only materially but also spiritually. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus warned people that money could become an idol, a God-replacement that we tend to look to instead of God Himself. When it comes to our hearts, money is a great rival to God because it competes with God as the source of our identity, power, pleasure, and security. However, all these things are temporary and fleeting. Only God can give us a lasting and sure sense of identity, purpose, and love. We must put God first and use money only as a tool for us to serve God, instead of devoting our lives to money. Share a decision you made where you honored God rather than personal financial gain.

2

Trusting in Jesus as our Lord means using our resources for His purposes.

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce . . . **PROVERBS 3:9**

The Bible tells us to honor the Lord with our wealth. One way we do this is by giving Him the first fruits, which refer to the first and best portion of what we produce. This is often associated with the "tithe," which is the first ten percent of our produce or income. In ancient times, vassals—a person under the protection of a feudal lord or a lord's tenant—gave tithes to their king or lord to symbolize their allegiance. In the same way, when we give our tithe and our offering to God, we acknowledge that He is Lord over our lives.

Honoring the Lord with our wealth also means that we are to use the rest of our finances in a way that would honor Him. We are to steward what we have for His purposes for our

family, work, and other areas of our lives. As people under His rule and reign, we acknowledge that everything we have is His. We are to keep God's purpose at the forefront. How have you grown in your perspective of giving to God and stewarding the finances He has entrusted you with?

3 | Trusting in Jesus as our Lord means trusting Him to provide for our needs.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. **2 CORINTHIANS 9:8**

(Read also **PSALM 23.**)

In ancient times, a lord was responsible for the care and protection of his vassals and subjects. Similarly, having Jesus as our Lord means that He is responsible for our welfare and our provision. Though earthly rulers do not always have their subjects' best interests in mind, Jesus is the perfect Lord who truly cares for His people. He provided for our ultimate need of salvation. We can also trust Him to provide all that we need for the life He has called us to. He has promised in His word to meet our needs according to His glorious riches. Share an experience when God provided for you in a remarkable way. What encouragement does Psalm 23 have for us through financially challenging seasons?

APPLICATION

- Aside from giving our tithes, in what ways can you honor God with your resources this week?
- For which material needs or desires are you seeking God for provision? Is there a certain need or dream you have this season? Confidently ask God for this provision.
- Who can you be a blessing to? Is there a person whom the Lord is showing you? Commit to pray for and be a channel of God's provision to this person this week.

PRAYER

- Spend time as a group to praise God for His greatest provision for our ultimate need—Jesus Christ. Think and reflect about the purpose for which He has saved and redeemed us.
- Pray for your faith and confidence in God to grow, acknowledging Him as a powerful provider in every area and season of your life.
- Ask God for a renewed heart that reflects His grace and generosity. Pray for opportunities to be a channel of His blessing to others.

5 Lord over Our Time

WARM-UP

- What is your favorite time of the week?
- Share an instance when you felt that your time could have been spent on something more worthwhile.
- Is there something that you usually worry about that takes much of your time?

WORD *¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* **EPHESIANS 5:15-17**

Have you ever felt like there's so much to do but so little time? That is perhaps the reality for all of us, and it can get overwhelming. As followers of Christ, we are encouraged to make *the best use* of our time. In order to do this, we are to understand what the will of the Lord is for our time. Under the loving Lordship of Christ, we can find guidance to help us become wise and effective. What does this look like? What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord over our time?

1 Having Jesus as Lord over our time means He is our top priority.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." **MATTHEW 6:33**

The way we value something or someone is measured not only by the amount of time and money we spend on it, but by how willing we are to set aside other things. Jesus, our loving Lord and Savior, deserves the best attention we can give on a regular basis. Seeking Him first causes us to have order in our lives and puts other things in perspective. What usually

competes with the time you have set for God in word and prayer? What do you do about it and how is it going so far?

2 | Having Jesus as Lord over our time means being good stewards of our time.

So teach us to number our days so that we may get a heart of wisdom. **PSALM 90:12**

A heart of wisdom, according to this passage, is a result of asking God to teach us how *to number our days*. Realizing the brevity of life causes us to have a healthy and honest view of our reality. We won't live on this side of life for long. Acknowledging that our time and resources are limited causes us to embrace limits and boundaries in our lives. Since time is limited, it is essential that we seek God so that we can be good stewards of time. This will enable us to streamline our responsibilities, resources, and relationships according to the principles that God reveals in His word. Share your values and the season you are in right now. How are you maximizing your time according to your season?

Having Jesus as Lord over our time means trusting in His timing for everything.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. **ECCLESIASTES 3:11**

Living in light of the short time we have on earth can lead us to one extreme—planning out every single second of our lives, not leaving room for God to work and do what only He can. Planning is great, but we cannot plan everything perfectly. This is why we should be open to wherever God may lead us and trust that His timing is best, even when it is different from ours. Our sovereign Lord knows what is ahead of us, where we are, and where we should be. We can rest in the truth that *He has made everything beautiful in its time* and His grace will carry us through every season. Is there something you are asking God for that still hasn't come to pass? What are you doing in light of it?

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APPLICATION

- What usually hinders you from spending time with God in prayer and the word? What is one step you can take this week to guard your time with Him?
- Name a habit or activity that you think you need to stop doing or spend less time on. How can you maximize every season? Ask God to help you know and keep your priorities.
- How can you strengthen your faith in times of waiting? Who can you also encourage to trust God's timing in the midst of difficulties?

PRAYER

- Spend time in silence and praise God for the life He has entrusted to you. Ask for a greater realization of life's brevity and to live according to God's values and priorities.
- Pray for a heart that is open to God. Ask the Lord to teach you to be faithful even in times of waiting.
- Pray that you will grow in wisdom every day. Pray for opportunities to help others know Jesus as Lord and Savior, so they too can trust and honor Him.

6 Lord over Our Life's Work

WARM-UP

- What is one profession you have a big appreciation and respect for? What makes it special for you?
- Share a project you did as a student that you are so proud of. What did you enjoy the most about it?
- If money were not an issue, what would you spend your lifetime working on?

WORD *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."* **GENESIS 1:28**

God designed work for mankind to thrive and reflect His image. His creation is meant to flourish. However, the way the world sees work is contrary to His original design. Work has become a substitute for God—a functional savior and source of our significance. We have become enslaved by a culture that celebrates the hustle and daily grind at the cost of our souls' rest and wholeness. When Christ became Lord of our lives, work was no longer our lord. Rather, work is an avenue to worship God. Today, let us look at three truths that can help us approach our work under Christ's Lordship.

1 | God called us to work.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **GENESIS 2:15**

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **EPHESIANS 2:10**

After the Lord had created man, He called him to a particular work. This was in line with God's purpose for humanity; as God's image-bearers we are to fill the earth and rule it under God's dominion. Because of the Fall resulting from man's sin, work has been challenging and unpleasant. Furthermore, humanity has used work for their own purposes rather than God's.

However, when Christ redeemed and saved us from sin, Ephesians 2:10 says that *God prepared good works* for us to do. As our Lord, God calls each of His people to a unique calling. This includes everything He has called each of us to do, including our occupation. How should we view our work in light of Ephesians 2:8–10?

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2 | God cares that we honor Him with our work.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men . . . **COLOSSIANS 3:23**

Jesus is Lord over all and in all. This means that He is Lord in our work as well. We are to view our work as not simply working for our bosses but as working ultimately for the Lord. Therefore, we are to work heartily in all that we do, thus honoring God. We are not to promote or support injustice or unrighteousness in the workplace. Rather, we are to be testimonies of grace, integrity, and productivity. Our

work ethic reflects our faith and convictions. People can be drawn to God through our excellence and our attitude. Was there a time when you were tempted to compromise your relationship with God at work? How did God help you and how did you grow in character?

3 | God commissioned us to advance His kingdom through our work.

¹⁹“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20

The word “go” in this passage has two nuances in the original language. The first is to intentionally go out of your way to make disciples of all nations. It is about leaving one’s home to go to other countries or people groups to make disciples. This expression, however, also carries the meaning “as you go.” This means that even as we go about our daily lives, doing what we are called to do, we are to preach the gospel and help others follow Jesus.

We may not be full-time missionaries or pastors, but we are to be witnesses for God, whatever career we may have and wherever we may work. Work is no longer for personal gain; it is now our ministry, where people and families are brought to faith in Jesus and ushered into a thriving relationship with

Him. Share a time when you have brought people to faith through your work.

APPLICATION

- How does the truth that God prepared good works for us to do and that we view our work as working for God affect your current mindset about work and your profession? What is one thing that you will change in light of this?
- Identify three ways you can honor God through your work ethic. Commit these to God in prayer and seek His help and guidance.
- Name one person at work you could reach out to, encourage, pray for, and share Jesus with. Pray for God to open the heart of this person to the gospel.

PRAYER

- Take a moment to prayerfully reflect on today's lesson. Meditate on the perfect work Jesus accomplished on the cross.
- Ask God for grace to thrive and flourish in your workplace. Repent from a tendency to make work your idol, and pray that you will see work in light of the advancement of God's kingdom.
- Receive God's grace and guidance as you work this week. Pray for the salvation of your workmates.

7 Lord over Our Bodies

WARM-UP

- What is your favorite sport? Do you play this or just enjoy watching people play?
- Have you ever enrolled yourself in a gym or fitness program? Did it work out for you? Why or why not?
- Have you ever accidentally damaged someone else's property or lost something that belonged to someone else? What happened?

WORD *¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. **1 CORINTHIANS 6:15-20***

The apostle Paul wrote this letter to address and correct the erroneous teachings, views, and practices of the believers at Corinth. One of these issues was the way they behaved and practiced their sexuality. Paul then gave a response as to how they should see their bodies—in light of the saving grace of Christ. The following truths from the Bible can help us see how we can honor God with our bodies.

1 | Our bodies belong to the Lord.

... for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. **1 CORINTHIANS 6:20**

The world's views are very different from the way God wants us to see life. One of the lies we are told is that our body is ours and that we can do whatever we want with it. Some say, "my body, my choice." Regardless of what we may believe, the truth remains—we are made by God and He is the one who determines our identity and purpose. This means that even our bodies are meant for the Lord. This becomes even more true when a person comes to faith in God. He not only made our bodies, but, in Jesus, He also paid the price to redeem, restore, and own it. How are we to respond to this truth?

2 | Our bodies are made for kingdom service.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **ROMANS 12:1**

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **GALATIANS 5:13**

When we offer our bodies to the Lord Jesus Christ, they can be used powerfully in the kingdom of God (Proverbs 3:5–8). We ought to be wise with our bodies as we continue to have a healthy fear of the Lord. Whatever we do now with our bodies are our spiritual acts of worship and living sacrifices unto the Lord. Whether we eat, drink, work out, or serve others, we are to honor and glorify God, advancing His

loving rule and reign in our hearts and in the world. Share a memorable experience serving others in an outreach event, a community, a mission trip, or ministry work that heavily involved strength and effort of your body. How did this experience teach you that advancing God's kingdom would involve your body working at full capacity?

3

Our bodies need to be disciplined and kept under control.

*²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. **1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27***

Each of us has an assigned task to accomplish in service of the Lord Jesus and of His kingdom. He has promised a reward for believers who live their lives fulfilling God's call for their lives. However, the sinful nature exerts its influence on our bodies so that it would resist God's purposes. We may be tempted to use our bodies for sin. We may experience bouts of laziness. We may have a tendency to abuse and not care for our bodies well. This is why the apostle Paul says that just like athletes who train and discipline their bodies, he will do the same. We too, by the grace of God and the power of the Spirit, are to care for and discipline our bodies so that we could fully use them to advance God's kingdom. What are some struggles you face when it comes to taking

care of and disciplining your body? How are you dealing with these challenges?

APPLICATION

- Share an area of your physical life that has been a struggle (e.g., eating, drinking, sleeping, exercising). How can you rely on God's grace and strength for transformation? To whom can you be accountable in this area?
- Are there areas in your life that need to be surrendered to Jesus' Lordship? How does knowing that our bodies belong to Him change the way you view your own body?
- Are there opportunities where you can use your physical strength and efforts to serve God and others? How can you commit to this and rely on God's grace, love, and compassion?

PRAYER

- Begin with a time of silence and personally thank God for your body, including its strengths and limitations. Ask Him to show you how you could use your body to honor Him.
- As a group, recommit your bodies to the Lord. Praise God that through the gospel, our obedience to God will always be powered by His grace.
- Pray for whoever you know is sick, injured, or currently recovering at home or in the hospital. Declare supernatural healing upon your loved ones and friends.

⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11**

As Christians, we have fully embraced the truth that Jesus is our Savior. We know He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He died the death that was meant for us so that we could have life and live with Him for eternity. But accepting Jesus as our Savior is just one side of the coin. He is not just our Savior; He is our Lord. What does it mean to accept Jesus as our Lord?

Recognizing Jesus' Lordship is transformational, influencing our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Since He is our Lord, we are to wholeheartedly obey Him. This includes not only the way we live, but also the way His rulership is advanced here on earth. Our lives should point people to im.

TOPICS

- Lord of All
- Lord and Savior
- Lord over Our Relationships
- Lord over Our Money and Resources
- Lord over Our Time
- Lord over Our Life's Work
- Lord over Our Bodies



EVERY NATION
PRODUCTIONS