

What is a Lord

WHAT IS A LORD?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Based on the sermon by Pastor Chris Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

In this message, I challenged us to wrestle with what it actually means to call Jesus "Lord" in 2026 -- not just as a churchy word, but as a total transfer of authority over our time, money, decisions, and allegiances. I pointed out that in the early church, saying "Jesus is Lord" was a dangerous, costly declaration that directly defied Caesar's claim to ultimate authority. The real question I left us with is this: are we cultural Christians who enjoy the benefits of the kingdom, or covenant Christians who have genuinely submitted our lives to Jesus as Lord -- especially when things get hard?

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'"

3. ICE BREAKER

Growing up, who was the person in your life you absolutely did not argue with -- and what made you so willing to listen to them?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. I described how the word Kurios -- Lord -- carried enormous weight in the Roman Empire, because saying "Jesus is Lord" was essentially saying "Caesar is not." What does it cost someone today to publicly declare Jesus as Lord? Have you ever felt that cost personally?
2. I asked whether we listen to our boss, our coach, or even a parking sign more than we listen to God. Why do you think it's easier to obey people we can see than to obey a God we can't? What does that reveal about

how we actually understand Lordship?

3. I drew a distinction between a cultural Christian and a covenant Christian. Where do you think most people you know -- including yourself -- honestly land on that spectrum? What does the difference look like in everyday life?

4. I shared that when life gets squeezed -- sickness, loss, disappointment -- that's when you find out who your real Lord is. Has there been a season in your life where difficulty revealed something about where your true allegiance was? What happened?

5. James 2:19 says even the demons believe -- and tremble. I suggested that believing Jesus is the Son of God isn't the same as making Him Lord. How would you explain the difference between belief and Lordship to someone who's never thought about it that way?

6. I mentioned that we often gatekeep certain areas of our lives -- our finances, our time, who we forgive -- and quietly stay Lord of those spaces ourselves. If you're honest, what's one area where you tend to take the wheel back from God? What makes that particular area hard to surrender?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, pick one specific area where you know you've been acting as your own Lord -- whether that's a grudge you won't let go of, a financial decision you're making purely out of fear or greed, or a habit you've been keeping secret. Write it down, bring it before God in prayer, and take one concrete step of surrender: have that conversation, make that call, delete that app, or write that check. Tell one person in this group what you chose so they can check in with you by next Sunday.

6. PRAYER POINTS

1. Honest surrender -- Pray that God would reveal, gently and clearly, the specific areas where each of us has been sitting on the throne of our own life, and that we'd have the courage to genuinely hand those over to Him.

2. Covenant faithfulness in hard seasons -- Pray for anyone in the group who is in a difficult stretch right now -- health, finances, relationships, doubt -- that they would experience the strength to keep Jesus as Lord even when circumstances are pushing them toward turning away.

3. Boldness in allegiance -- Pray for the courage to live in a way that makes our confession "Jesus is Lord" visible and real -- at work, at school, in our families, and online -- not just on Sunday mornings.

7. MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 3:6 (NLT)

"Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Leader tip: These questions can go deep quickly -- that's a good thing! Give people permission to be honest rather than giving "the right answer." The goal isn't a perfect theology discussion; it's genuine reflection on who is actually running our lives.