

LEADER GUIDE

LESSON 1: LORDSHIP

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY AND POSSESSIONS
REFLECTS WHO IS LORD OF YOUR LIFE.



True, faith-filled stewardship flows naturally from a life fully surrendered to Jesus Christ. Lordship implies not only that His perspective matters, but that it's the only one that matters. When we accurately comprehend the gift of our eternal security, we gain an equally eternal perspective on what we own, how we spend, and where we invest.

The question of lordship reveals our attitude toward the Father's authority in every area of our lives. This course explores several key concepts around the central theme that per our claim to be His disciples, Jesus' rightful place as Lord must therefore affect our behavior and decisions.

- How do your attitudes about money and possessions reveal His Lordship in your life?
- How readily do you show honor by to the Father through your giving behavior?
- What do your financial decisions say about your perspective and sense of destiny?
- Is your house in order, i.e. does it reflect His will being done on earth as it is in Heaven?
- Where is your treasure – in this world or in His?
- How do your lifestyle & financial behavior evidence maturity of understanding in this area?

During the six weeks of this study, we will feast upon the rich fare of God's word (i) to gain a deeper appreciation for the things that please the Father (ii) and to grasp His plan to release blessing upon the earth through His church. (iii)

THINK ABOUT IT: When God is first, nothing else matters.

Lordship happens when we set Christ above all. Seeking His Kingdom and righteousness pre-eminently (iv) is an instruction to all, but only the believer possesses the instinctive motivation to do so. The unredeemed soul lacks the capacity to be compelled by holy surrender; to the contrary, his or her will derives its momentum from the preservation, advancement, and gain to self.

The Psalmist declares, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you." (v) Reality is, just like David, each of us has desired things or people ahead of God; we would show great foolishness to assert otherwise. So is David just ignoring the facts and pretending he's more holy than he really is? No, we know from scripture to the contrary. The takeaway here is profound: he understands and boldly confesses Truth even as he is training his heart to live it out. (vi)

LEADER GUIDE

LESSON 1: LORDSHIP

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY AND POSSESSIONS
REFLECTS WHO IS LORD OF YOUR LIFE.



TALK ABOUT IT: If most of us would lay ready claim to Jesus as Lord, why isn't there more evidence in the church that our relationship with God actually trumps all?

LEADER NOTES:

This question intentionally places focus on the unfortunate and easily observed lack of true Lordship found within the walls of our churches. Point out to your class that those "outside" don't claim Him to be Lord, so the burden of evidence falls on those who do.

SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

- Appearances – fear of man, reputation
- Love of material possessions and the impressions they help create
- Un-Biblical perspectives on what's truly valuable
- Peer pressure – don't want to come across as the "goody two-shoes"
- Misinformation about what really matters to God
- Pharisee spirit – lip service and no heart => Is. 29:13

CONCEPT SUMMARY:

Lordship starts with confession and belief (Romans 10:9). Do not assume that everyone in your class has come to faith in Christ. Consider leading a (re)commitment prayer as an example to your group.

It is imperative to convey to them that being saved is the start, not the end – it's a means to the end, which is right relationship with the Father. And when we relate to the Father correctly and honorably, we do what He does with conviction and passion, with an eye toward that which is to come. (vii)

THINK ABOUT IT: Everything belongs to God.

Psalm 24 establishes that "the Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." Agreement with this statement relies wholly on your belief that scripture is God-inspired, revealed to human authors, inerrant, living and active, and useful for teaching. (viii) Embracing such a Biblical worldview empowers the believer to relinquish his grip on material possessions, realizing the distorted value conferred upon them by the traditions and expectations of men.

Our ability to view items and holdings as "on loan and not our own" allows us to see ourselves as stewards of God's infinite wealth. (ix) In doing so, we hold Him in proper regard as Lord and Master. We aren't really in charge, but many of us, on most days, fail to bear convincing lifestyle evidence to this Truth.

LEADER GUIDE

LESSON 1: LORDSHIP

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY AND POSSESSIONS
REFLECTS WHO IS LORD OF YOUR LIFE.



TALK ABOUT IT: How are believers to know when to give, or to spend, and when not to? Does He really care about “little” stuff, like what shoes I buy?

LEADER NOTES:

Some would argue the phrase, “As long as it’s in balance.” Point out to your group that the radical believer will never appear “in balance” to a lost world! (xi) Suggest to them that perhaps the church, in general, is using the wrong filter (i.e. that of the world) to gauge what is “expected” or “appropriate.” In other words, we too often follow the world’s example of gravitating toward what appeals to us, versus what pleases the Lord, when the two are in conflict.

SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

- Common sense (if it’s not in your checkbook, don’t spend it)
- Prayer (ask Him)
- Seek the counsel of others whom you trust (many are smarter than you are)
- Follow the leader (submit as called upon. and as you have the means)
- Be self-critical and honest (do your priorities align with His as shown in scripture)
- Be wise and discerning (does the vision/recipient’s values align with scripture)

CONCEPT SUMMARY:

The issue is not at all whether you should ever go to Starbucks, or to the movies. Rather, you must look at real data to expose your heart: what percentage of your income is dedicated to support of overtly others-oriented ministry and vision? Through your local congregation and “para-church” organizations, our financial commitment to helps, evangelistic, and missions ministry shows whether our priorities align with the Father’s, as revealed in His word, in prayer, and through daily communion with His Spirit.

PERSONAL/FAMILY APPLICATION

- DISCUSS** What are you holding onto? What has displaced God’s rightful place in your heart?
- DECIDE** Live on less: what can you do without (temporarily, or even permanently)?
- DO!** Give it up: make a trip to Goodwill/Salvation Army, local missions or shelters, etc.

(i) Psalm 34.8

LESSON 1: LORDSHIP

GIVE & Grow

- (ii) Micah 6:8, John 14:15
- (iii) Matt 5:16, 28:16-20
- (iv) Matt 6:33
- (v) Ps 73:25, see also 19:9-10
- (vi) Acts 13:22
- (vii) John 5:19, Phil 3:14
- (viii) Tim 3:16
- (ix) Phil 4:19, Ps. 50:10
- (x) Rom 14
- (xi) 1 Cor 1:18

[illegible]