

Message Discussion Guide

Lord Over All: Lord in His Life

The Church at Brook Hills, Dr. David Platt

April 5, 2009

Hebrews 1:1-4

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Ask those in your group if they can think of some examples of "lords". What comes to mind when we think of earthly lords? Some may think of the movie *Braveheart* where the feudal lords of England terrorized Scottish villages. Others may immediately think of a fairytale image of a king on a golden throne in a stone castle high atop the mountain overlooking his kingdom. Still others may imagine a wealthy European landowner in the 18th century with a house full of servants obeying every command preceded by a humble "yes, my lord". Regardless of our concept of lordship, for most Americans it is a foreign and poorly defined concept.

When we say that Jesus Christ is Lord, the weight and greatness of this truth is often lost. Is He really Lord? Are we really submissive to His commands? Is all creation, even our own desires, subject to His will – His Lordship? Take some time after discussing the concept of "lordship" with your group to identify some implications of Christ's Lordship for our lives. In other words, if Christ is really Lord, how does that affect our lives?

Option 2

Take some time to read through Matthew's account of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Allow your group to listen to someone read Matthew 21:1-11 without following along in their Bibles. Ask learners what word, phrase, or idea stood out to them as they heard the word read. After several people have answered, re-read the text and ask the following questions. Note: Some of the points these questions are intended to draw out may have already been made in the group discussion.

- How does Jesus refer to Himself?
- According to verses 4-5, why was it important for Jesus to enter Jerusalem this way?
- How does the prophecy from Zechariah describe the one who will ride on a donkey (in title and in character)?
- What is significant about the crowds putting their coats and palm branches on the road for Jesus to ride on? (cf. 2 Kings 9:13)
- According to vs. 11, did the majority of the people understand who Jesus really was?

Explain that this message and discussion will look to Scripture to see who Jesus really is!

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Review the Message . . .

LORD IN HIS LIFE

Hebrews 1:1-4

Lord Over All...

- Palm Sunday - Lordship in the _____ life _____ of Christ...
- Good Friday - Lordship in the _____ death _____ of Christ...
- Easter Sunday - Lordship in the _____ resurrection _____ of Christ...

Read Hebrews 1:1-4.

Lordship in the Life of Christ...

- As _____ prophet _____, Jesus _____ reveals _____ God to man.
 - He is the ultimate _____ communication _____ from God.
 - In the past...
 - Many _____ avenues _____ of communication.
 - Promises _____ foretold _____.
 - Now in Christ...
 - One _____ agent _____ of communication.
 - Promises _____ fulfilled _____.
 - He is the exact _____ representation _____ of God.
 - God is _____ three _____ persons.
 - Each person is _____ fully _____ God.
 - There is _____ one _____ God.
 - He has superior _____ identification _____ with God.

Discussion . . .

- What are some ways that God spoke to “our fathers”, that is the prophets of the Old Testament in the past?
- Read Acts 3:17-23 or Deuteronomy 18:15-19. What did the prophet Moses say about Christ?
- What does the prophet Micah tell us about Christ in Micah 5:2?
- What does the prophet Daniel tell us about Christ in Daniel 9:24-26? [Note: this can be a very confusing text. The goal is to highlight that Daniel told us *when* Christ would be born even though it is a cryptic telling.]
- What does the prophet Isaiah tell us about Christ in Isaiah 9:6-7?
- Read Hebrews 11:13 & 39-40, then read 2 Corinthians 1:20. What is the connection between these texts? What do we learn about God’s promises and our relationship with Christ through these texts?
- Assign several in your group to read the following texts:
 - Colossians 1:15

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- Colossians 2:9
- John 1:14 & 18
- John 14:9
- 2 Corinthians 4:6
- What do we learn about Christ through these texts? How do these texts inform us about the mysterious nature of the Trinity?

Application . . .

- When we desire for God to speak directly to us in time of unbelief and/or trouble, according to Hebrews 1:2, where should we direct our focus?
- A prophet's calling is to speak the truth of God. How has Christ spoken truth in to our lives? What are some truths He has revealed from God that will help us make every tough decision and face every difficult circumstance?
- David gave two quotes regarding the Trinity. How are these quotes helpful when we think of the mystery of the Trinity?

Love and faith are at home in the mystery of the Godhead. Let reason kneel in reverence outside. -A.W. Tozer

To fail to believe in the Trinity you will lose your soul. To try to understand the Trinity you will lose your mind. -Augustine of Hippo

- Do we look to Christ to know God or do you attempt to know God through other means - philosophy, detailed study of the Old Testament, study of other religious views, etc.? Can a person who tries to know God apart from Christ call himself a Christian? Why or why not? (cf. John 17:3).
- As _____ priest _____, Jesus _____ represents _____ man before God.
 - He _____ died _____ to obtain the blessings of our salvation...
 - The _____ purification _____ of our sins.
 - He _____ lives _____ to apply the blessings of our salvation...
 - The _____ preservation _____ of our souls.

Discussion . . .

- A prophet speaks to men on behalf of God; a priest speaks to God on behalf of men. Take some time to read through these texts in Hebrews that emphasize Jesus as *priest*: Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:8-10; 6:20; 7:23-26; 8:1-2; 9:11; 10:11-12, 21.
- How does the last part of Hebrews 1:3 demonstrate Jesus' role as a priest who offers a sacrifice before God on behalf of people?
- How does the last part of Hebrews 1:3 demonstrate Jesus' role as a priest who intercedes for His people? (cf. Hebrews 7:23-25).

Application . . .

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- If Christ is the only priest who is able to offer purification for our sins by His perfect sacrifice, what are the ends of every other attempt to find forgiveness before God? What are some implications of this truth in our lives if we truly believe it?
- Why is Christ able to intercede on our behalf before God without making any additional sacrifices the way the priests in the Old Testament did?
- Read Hebrews 12:2. Do you typically think of Jesus as the *author* or the *finisher* of your faith? What errors might we slip into if we hold onto one aspect of Christ's priesthood more than the other?
- As _____ King _____, Jesus _____ reigns _____ as God with man for all of eternity.
 - He is the beginning of all things - our _____ Creator _____.
 - He is the middle of all things - our _____ Sustainer _____.
 - He is the end of all things - our _____ Redeemer _____.

Discussion . . .

- Read Hebrews 1:5-14. Discuss the ways the author of Hebrews supports his statement in Hebrews 1:4.
- What does the author Hebrews' emphasis on Christ's superiority over the angels indicate about Christ's dominion? (cf. Hebrews 1:2b-3a; Colossians 1:16; John 1:3)
- What does it mean for Christ to be "heir of all things"? (Hebrews 1:2)

Application . . .

- How should the reality of Christ's rule and authority over the entire universe affect the way we view His rule and authority over every aspect of our lives?
- If Christ is "heir of all things", what does that mean for our lives? What does it mean for the lives of every person, in every place, and in every time in history past, present and future?

Worship in the Life of the Church...

We live as children of God and _____ co-heirs _____ with Christ who not only see His glory but will one day _____ share _____ in His glory.

Application . . .

- If Christ is the perfect prophet, priest, and king, who has revealed God the Father to the world, suffered His wrath against humanity's sin, and who is interceding for and sustaining creation from God's right hand, what reason do we have to fear in this world or to doubt His promises? What causes us to we fear and doubt?
- Why is a life lived solely for the glory and enjoyment of God, a life of courage, stability, peace, joy, and hope?
- Spend some time praying for those you know who have not yet seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.