



THE CRY OF A KINGDOM CITIZEN

YOUTH EDITION
LEADER'S GUIDE



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Lesson 1:**WHERE DO WE STAND?****This First Lesson**

Jesus is Lord. Chances are that your students have heard this phrase at church at some point. Maybe they heard the phrase in a sermon, came across it while reading Scripture, or heard Grandma Irene say it while sharing her testimony. Perhaps your students are newer to the faith, and this phrase is unfamiliar or foreign to them. Regardless, this series will help your students wrestle with the depth and truth of the simple phrase Jesus is Lord and what that confession means for how we think and live.

Just to give you a heads up, this first lesson is a little different from the ones that follow it. Because many students come from a wide range of backgrounds, beliefs, knowledge, and understanding of their faith, this lesson is designed to help students articulate their beliefs and create conversation. The goal is to help set the table for the rest of the series.

Below are six prompts for students to respond to. You can either give students time to write out their responses before you go over them or simply go through them one at a time by reading the prompts out loud. Challenge students to articulate the why of their responses. Let them know that the reason for going through these phrases/questions is because this very material will be covered in the series you are about to start. Don't get discouraged if your students struggle to work through and articulate their responses and thoughts.

The Prompts:

If you had to pick three words that best describe what you think of Jesus, what would those three words be? Why?

Living the way Jesus calls us to live means...

Other Christians help me in my faith journey when they...

When I think about God using me in great ways, I picture...

Something I do to connect with God is...

One area of my life where I would like to see growth is...

As You go:

- Pass out a copy of Jesus Is Lord: Youth Edition to each student.
- Ask the students to read chapter 1 in the coming week to prepare for next week's small group discussion time.



Lesson 2:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS IS LORD?

Key Quotes & Ideas of the Chapter:

- When we as Christians say, “Jesus is Lord,” we should mean that he is the ultimate authority in all things. He is King. He is the greatest... He is the rightful ruler of this world.”
- Because of Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection we confidently affirm that Jesus is Lord, King, and reigns in all of life.
- We have all been created to represent God through our actions and speech.
- Our world is full of false idols and other god options.
- All life is holy. Every interaction and every choice is an opportunity to display a holy life.

Reflecting on the Chapter:

- What are one or two things that stuck out to you from reading chapter 1?
- Have you ever heard a pastor or teacher say, “Jesus is Lord,” or have you ever come across this statement in the Bible? What do you think it means?
- Have students turn to the chart located at the bottom of page 6 in Jesus is Lord. If the students did not fill out the chart prior to group, give them time now to fill it out. After every student has completed the chart, ask the following questions:
 - o What are some things you can tell me about the person of Jesus?
 - o What are some of the actions of Jesus that came to mind?
 - o What are some of Jesus’s teachings that you wrote down?
- “Others in this world—your friends, family, classmates, teachers, coaches, teammates, etc.—can know this kingdom of God through your actions, words, and beliefs.” Can you think of an example of how we can do this? Can you think of a specific time in your own life when the kingdom of God was seen in someone’s actions?

Group Activity:

The book says, “Idols are what we deem most important in life.” Using a white board, have students make a list of the different idols they see in the world and hear about in commercials, movies, music, on television, etc.



After the students have compiled a list, ask them:

- How can these idols be dangerous in our lives?
- Why do we replace Jesus with these kinds of idols in our lives?
- How can we begin to focus more on Jesus as Lord in our lives over these competing messages?

Have students turn to page 14 in *Jesus is Lord* and have a volunteer read through the summary of Matthew 5:3-12.

- As we reflect on that list we just read, what are one or two examples of ways we could live out this instruction?
- Do you see a big difference in the lives of those people who call themselves Christians versus those who don't? Why or why not?

As You Go:

- Remember that you have the opportunity to point people to Jesus and his kingdom through your actions, speech, and beliefs.
- Pray that God would reveal to you any false idols or gods you are tempted to give your life to. Ask God to give you strength and your full allegiance to him.
- Pray and look for ways to live out the instruction Jesus speaks of in Matthew 5:3-12 (summarized on page 14 in *Jesus is Lord*).
- Close in prayer.



Lesson 3:

LIVING IN THE WAY OF JESUS

Key Quotes & Ideas of the Chapter:

- Jesus calls us to lives of ongoing conversion. As believers, we never stop pursuing completeness and wholeness in Christ.
- Believers cannot bear the fruit of Christ unless they abide and draw close to Christ.
- “As those living in the way of Jesus, we are called to reflect to others the reality of God.”
- As we seek to live as Christ as called us to, we must do it in community with one another.
- Jesus calls his disciples to continue his work while Paul calls us to be “imitators of Christ.”

Reflecting on the Chapter:

- What are one or two things that stuck out to you from reading chapter 2?
- “Jesus calls us to lives of ongoing conversion, lives where we never stop pursuing completeness or wholeness.” What do you think is meant by this?
- What is the difference between someone who simply believes in Jesus and someone who is a disciple of Jesus? Would you consider yourself a disciple of Jesus? Why or why not?

Have students turn to page 23 in Jesus is Lord and read the five ways to abide with Jesus.

- Do you make it a priority in your life to draw close and abide with Christ?
- What are some things you could do (perhaps one of these five) to help you draw close to Christ?
- In what ways do you strive to be a reflection of Christ to others?

Have students turn to page 27 in Jesus is Lord.

- Where are three places you see brokenness in the world? What are three ways you could work to restore it?
- How can other believers assist us as we seek to follow Jesus faithfully?

Have students turn to page 30 in Jesus is Lord. Read 1 Corinthians 11:1.

- Who are three people that you know who are imitators of Christ? What do these people do that make them imitators?



Read Philippians 2:5-11 (also on pages 31-32 in *Jesus is Lord*).

- When do you find it most difficult to have a servant's heart like Jesus?

Read Luke 9:23-24 (also on p.32 in *Jesus is Lord*).

- What do you think this passage means when it talks about denying oneself and carrying one's cross?

Group Activity: Do your best to end your gathering time 10-15 minutes early, if possible. As you do, give them these instructions: Today we talked about how the only way we can faithfully live the way Jesus calls us to live is by first drawing close to Christ and abiding with him. We have to really be intentional about doing this, especially when there are so many other things competing for our time and attention. Therefore, I would like us to spend the remainder of our time by taking the opportunity to be quiet, turn off our phones, and focus our hearts on the Lord. You may want to consider playing light music, suggesting passages to read, giving students some blank paper and writing utensils, etc.

As You Go:

- Remember that there is a difference between simply believing in Jesus and being a lifelong disciple and follower of Jesus.
- Make it a priority in your life to abide with Jesus this week. Pray that, as you do, you may be a faithful reflection of Jesus to others.
- Pray that God would show you ways you can be part of restoring the brokenness in your community and world.
- Close in prayer.



Lesson 4:**MISSION OF GOD****Key Quotes & Ideas of the Chapter:**

- God has an ultimate mission and hope for the world, and all Christians are called to be missionaries in one way or another.
- “As you begin work as a missionary, you will need three basic skills in service to others: presence, patience, and humility.”
- Jesus never promised his mission would be easy. Being faithful to God’s mission requires sacrifice of our own will and selfishness, and a servant’s heart.
- Shalom means completeness or wholeness. God desires to use his children to help bring about his shalom in the world.

Reflecting on the Chapter:

- What are one or two things that stuck out to you from reading chapter 3?
- What do you think God’s ultimate mission and hope for the world is? What do you think God would fix or change about the world first?
- In what way are all Christians called to be missionaries?
- Do you think it would be important for missionaries to spend time and live near the people they are trying to reach? Why?
- Why would a missionary need to practice patience?
- Why would a missionary need to have humility?

Group Activity: Have students imagine that it is their job to reach out and minister to people in the country of Sri Lanka (or another location that seems distant or foreign.) Using a white board, have students make two lists. For the first list, ask students to think of all the steps and measures someone would need to take in order to minister to the people of that country (example: learning where the country is located, learning what language is spoken there, etc). For the second list, ask students to come up with different things missionaries could do that would hinder or hurt their ministry among the people (example: refusing to follow their customs, refusing to obey the country’s laws, etc.). After you have finished doing this, challenge students to come up with a similar list about the community they currently live in.

Have students turn to page 41 in Jesus is Lord. Shalom means completeness, soundness, and wholeness. Shalom means everything that could be right is right. The mission of God is to bring shalom, or wholeness, to the whole world.



- How might God's shalom come into the world through you? How might it come into the world through this small group?
- Can you think of a time when God used you to be a blessing to someone else? What was that experience like? How did you feel?

As You Go:

- Remember that all people who follow Jesus are called to be missionaries in some way or another.
- Pray that God would help you to be a Christlike, loving presence in the world.
- Close in prayer.



Lesson 5:**MINISTRY/SERVICE****Key Quotes & Ideas of the Chapter:**

-“Jesus calls people to every vocation, job, field of endeavor, and community. Wherever there are people, followers of Jesus should be there. We are called to serve the world.”

-We are called to use our gifts and graces to build up the church, to bless the world, and to make us all that we can be, together.

Reflecting on the Chapter:

- What are one or two things that stuck out to you from reading chapter 4?
- What field of work do you think God could be calling you to? Do you have a vocation? (The definition of vocation can be found on page 43 in Jesus is Lord.)
- How could someone honor Jesus and do the Lord's work as a grocery sacker? As a server at a restaurant? As a businessman or businesswoman? As a lawyer? (Feel free to add other examples.)

Read Colossians 3:17. What does this passage mean for your life and the lives of those around you?

Group Activity:

Have a student volunteer to read Psalm 139:13-16. What does this passage tell us about what God thinks of us? After students have finished responding to the question, provide a time for them to point out one another's strengths, talents, and abilities. Start with one student and allow two or three people in the group to speak an encouraging word to that student before you move on. Do your best to make the number of people who speak up for each student the same so that nobody feels worse afterward. The activity is intended to build students up and affirm that God loves them and has equipped them.

Have students turn to page 47 in Jesus Is Lord. Now that they have heard encouraging words about their own gifts and graces, have them add what others said about them to anything they may have already written in the area designated in the book. This will help students remember the gifts and talents others see in them.

After they have done this, ask:

- Were there any talents or strengths you were surprised someone noticed in you?
- Did anyone say something about you that changed your own understanding of your talents and abilities?
- Why do you think we don't see or recognize some of our own strengths and abilities?



As You Go:

- Remember we have the opportunity to give honor and glory to God regardless of the particular job or vocation we have been called to. God has created each one of us with unique gifts, talents, and abilities that can be used to do God's work.
- Pray that God would help you become passionate about the things that break God's heart and that you would be able to do something about it.



Lesson 6:**COMMUNITY****Key Quotes & Ideas of the Chapter:**

-When Jesus walked the earth, he did so in community. We were created and are called to experience community as well.

-To be a disciple of Jesus means we must be willing to take risks and sacrifice.

Reflecting on the Chapter:

- What are one or two things that stuck out to you from reading chapter 5?
- Why do you think Jesus makes it a point to teach, spend time with, and invest in the disciples? Why doesn't he simply minister by himself?
- Whom in your life are you willing to take a risk for? Is there anyone in your life you would risk getting in trouble for? Getting hurt for?

Read Luke 14:33. When Jesus looks for disciples, he looks for people who are willing to take risks for him.

- What are your first thoughts after reading this passage?
- Why is this so important to Jesus? Why does he need these kind of followers?
- What are the risks we must be willing to take in order to faithfully follow after Jesus?

Read Acts 2:41-47.

- Where do you see community in this passage?
- What is so special and unique about the believers mentioned in this passage?

Group Activity:

(This activity can be done in a fireplace or another location where a fire can be built and extinguished). Build a controlled fire with your students and then ask them: What are the different ways you can extinguish this fire? After your students have responded, share with them: A fire is sort of like community. If you want to extinguish or snuff out a community, you can do it by separating and isolating people from one another. Similarly, if I want to reduce the strength of this fire's flame, I can simply begin to separate the wood and the burning embers and isolate them from one another... We were created to be in community with one another. We are stronger and better when we are together.

- When we are in community, we are stronger. What about community makes us stronger (encouragement, support, accountability, etc.)?



- How have other people encouraged you in the past, especially during a time when you felt down?
- Can you think of a time when you were able to help out someone else who was really struggling? What was that experience like?

As You Go:

-Remember that you and I were not created to go through this life in isolation. Instead, we were created to experience Christlike community with one another.

-Pray that God would give you the courage to take risks and make sacrifices in order to be faithful to God.

-Look for ways to be a blessing to others, especially those in need of encouragement.



Lesson 7:

PRACTICES: PERSONAL & CORPORATE

Key Quotes & Ideas of the Chapter:

- “If Jesus is Lord, you have to go beyond belief to practice, from knowing to doing, from head and heart to hands and feet.”
- “To spur one another on, to give encouragement, to help everyone be better, we need to meet together. We need to practice together. We need to follow Jesus together.”
- Sometimes it is through disconnecting from various areas of our lives that we are better able to reconnect with God.

Reflecting on the Chapter:

- What are one or two things that stuck out to you from reading chapter 6?
- The chapter begins by saying, “If Jesus is Lord, you have to go beyond belief to practice, from knowing to doing, from the head and heart to the hands and feet.” What is the author getting at?

Have a student volunteer to read Matthew 7:24-27.

- What are some things we can do as believers to help build our foundation of faith on the rock?
- What are some practices we can do when we are alone to connect with God?
- What are some practices that we can do in community with other believers to connect with God?
- Are there any practices you can do both alone and with others?

Have students turn to page 58. Read through John Wesley's prayer aloud two or three times as a group.

- What is the main point of Wesley's prayer?
- Are there any lines that are your favorite? Why?
- Is prayer a practice that you participate in regularly?
- What is it about prayer that makes you feel closer to God?



Have students turn to page 60 and read the Acts of Mercy section.

- What are some acts of mercy you and your small group could do that would impact your local community?
- What are some acts of mercy that would bless someone across the globe?

Group Activity:

The end of the chapter talks about how we as believers may need to disconnect from various things in our lives (fasting) so that we can reconnect with God (prayer). Give students a few minutes to make a list of the different things in life that can get in the way of connecting with God. After the time is up, have students share their lists. Challenge the students to practice fasting from something they wrote down on their list and to replace that time with prayer and drawing close to God.

As You Go:

- Remember that, as Christians, we must go beyond head and heart knowledge. Our faith must translate into action with our hands, feet, and voices.
- Remember that sometimes we need to disconnect from different things in our lives in order to reconnect with God.
- Pray that, as you seek God, he would lead, guide, and direct your life in a way that gives glory and honor to God while expressing a servant love for others.

