



STUDY 17

My Lord, My God

John 20:24-29, Malachi 3:10-12

Jesus is Lord of all – he is Lord of creation, Lord and Saviour of our lives, and our resurrected and coming King. Knowing Jesus as our Lord comes out of revelation and relationship with him. Doubts, vulnerabilities, fears and lack of faith in God, will impact where we place our lordship. It is God's will for us to understand the power of Christ and the power of his lordship in every area of our lives.

Lordship is tested by disappointment, when we feel alone and when we are vulnerable. When vulnerability closes in on us we can lose sight of his lordship but when we cry out to God: "My Lord, My God," he keeps us in his God-given appointment and purpose. God wants us to trust him in every area – our priorities, marriage, sexuality, finances, relationships, thoughts, time and spending. When we stop trying to protect ourselves and choose to trust him, honor him, and put him first we see he is with us, pours out his power and blessing in our lives, and gives us breakthrough and freedom.

Jesus wants to touch our lives. The vulnerability of Christ was exposed on the cross: in his scars, in his pain, and all that he won for us through his death. Our vulnerability doesn't repel Jesus. Our places of weakness, pain, fear, where it is hard to let go and trust him, when they touch the wounds of our Saviour, they are healed and we can see God doing what he promised he would do. When we touch his wounds, we believe in him and our doubts are transformed to declarations of his lordship.

May we let God hold every part of us; declare him our Lord and our God, so we can see him prove himself faithful in every area of life. With Jesus as our Lord, may we give generously to the ministry of the church, the lost, unsaved, broken, orphaned, abandoned and widowed – knowing the purpose of our life and blessings is to help others know him. We are people that rather than protecting ourselves as the world teaches us to do, have hearts to be a blessing far beyond ourselves for God's glory – hearts like our Saviour's whose hands created the universe, were pierced for our transgressions, and reach out to touch our lives.

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

ICEBREAKER: Share your upcoming Christmas plans and what you remember of your first Christmas you knew Jesus as Lord and Saviour of your life.

- Q:** What does it mean for Jesus to be *Lord of all*? How does his lordship impact your daily life?
- Q:** Consider areas in your life (*i.e. priorities, marriage, sexuality, finances, relationships, thoughts, time, spending etc.*) where you protect yourself and hesitate to trust and allow Jesus to be Lord. What can we do in our personal lives and collectively to surrender those areas to Jesus?
- Q:** Share doubts, you once had, that have been transformed into declarations of trust and lordship in Jesus.
- Q:** What thoughts, images, feelings come to mind when considering Christ's vulnerability? What change have you seen by allowing Christ's vulnerability to touch your vulnerability?
- Q:** Brainstorm outward displays of having hearts that are a blessing beyond ourselves. Which of these actions would you like see more of in your life?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Stuff the Bus
- Christmas Spectacular Tickets

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I LOVE MY CONNECT

BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these questions and scriptures to help believers develop a biblical worldview.

Read: John 20:24-31

- Q:** Explore the disappointment Thomas faced before his encounter with Jesus. What led to this disappointment and how did it test his faith?
- Q:** Knowing Jesus as Lord comes from personal revelation. What were the components of Thomas' revelation and declaration of Jesus as Lord?
- Q:** What blessings and promises can we find today when we have not seen the resurrected Jesus but believe and trust in him (**Leaders tip:** read verses 29-31)?
- Q:** Compare Thomas' expression of doubt in verse 25 to his declaration of faith in verse 28. What is similar? What is different about Thomas' environment? What else do you notice about this process of transformation?
- Q:** What does God reveal to us in this passage about his nature and who he is? How does this knowledge lead us to make Jesus Lord in our lives?

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

- Q:** Jesus is Lord of all – as leaders, what does this mean for our authority, position and team?
- Q:** What does it look like for a leader to be surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?
- Q:** Explore team atmosphere: What occurs in a team when expressions of doubt are made? What occurs when declarations of faith are made? As leaders, what can we do to build people in our teams so they function in faith and trust?
- Q:** As a leader, what level of vulnerability do you have with your team? What strength can come from allowing your vulnerability to touch others? What risks are involved?
- Q:** Identify ways Jesus was vulnerable with his disciples. How can we apply his behaviors to how we function as leaders of the people in our teams?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Pastors Brian & Bobbie Houston

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500 or Newcastle 02 4927 1888 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

NATION BUILDERS – ON MISSION

One of the best ways we can make a difference as a connect is to regularly PRAY for the Nation Builders causes we support, and regularly inspire your group to receive your Nation Builders offering. Your giving makes a massive difference in helping us 'reach and influencing the world'.

Hillsong Church, Kiev & Moscow

Please take the time to pray for our churches in Kiev and Moscow, especially at this uncertain time. If you follow Ps Bobbie on twitter /Instagram, you will have seen amazing pictures contrasting the atmosphere of value and hope inside the Colour services with the tragic scenes on the streets: "Let's keep praying God's will into all this unrest and tension. Many of us might be removed from this geographically, but these are our brothers and sisters. Our hearts are with them, right?" Let's express the convictions of our hearts and please take the time to give a great Nation Builders offering.

