

SESSION ONE

Lordship

God wants the whole person and He will not rest till He gets us in entirety. No part of the man will do.

—A.W. Tozer

That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that He could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

—The Apostle Paul in Romans 14:9 (The Message)

INTRODUCTION

Are you a “take charge” person or are you more of a follower? Has that changed over the years? Share with the group whether you prefer to lead or follow.

The topic of Small Group Session One is Lordship. That's not a word that we use in everyday conversation, but it means “complete power or rule.”

OUR GOD

We serve a God who is holy. God's holiness means that He is completely perfect and separate from sin. Theologian Wayne Grudem states that this perfection means, “...that God completely possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for Him.” Consequently, holiness becomes our requirement for how we are to now live our life. God's words in Leviticus remind us of this, “... **You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy**” (Lev 19:2b).

God is also sovereign. God's sovereignty means He is in control and is regulating all the affairs in Heaven and on Earth – past, present, and future. Paul reminds us of this fact: “**For from him and through him and to him are all things**” (Rom 11:36a). Man is the created, but God is the Creator and is infinitely all-knowing and all-powerful.

That is why Matthew boasts, “...**with God all things are possible**” (Matt 19:26).

OUR RESPONSE

We serve a God who is perfect in every way and is powerful enough to carry out His will and regulate the affairs of our lives in a perfect way. Because God is perfect and all-powerful, our response is to make Him the Lord of our lives. This means that we respond with trust and obedience to Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we live obediently, we are recognizing His Lordship in our lives. We are saying to God, "You have the absolute right to reign and rule in our lives."

Proverbs 3:1-8

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, ² for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. ³ Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

1. What are some of the ways that Proverbs 3:1-8 says we are to trust in God?
2. What are some of the benefits of trusting God that you see described in this passage?

Read aloud Luke 9:23

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

1. What does it mean to:

deny yourself?

take up your cross?

follow Jesus?

Discuss what each of these practically means in your day to day life.

Read aloud Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1. What are some practical ways that we present our bodies as living sacrifices?

2. What does the transformation of our mind have to do with lordship?
3. We are all ruled by something. The question is, by what are we ruled? What are some things that compete with God for our worship, our trust, and our obedience?
4. What are some areas of life in which I need to learn to trust Jesus more? In what area of my life do I need to be more obedient?
5. What holds me back or distracts me from allowing Jesus to be completely Lord over me?

Each week we will look at how the sessions in Discover Fellowship relate to the Membership Covenant that is signed by everyone wishing to become a member of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas. While all of the Christian life is related to the Lordship of Christ and our grateful obedience to his commands, three points of the covenant stand out as examples of allowing God to reign and rule in our lives. Those three points are integrity, family, and following the authority of the Elders.

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Integrity:

To pursue a holy and pure life, representing Christ in a worthy manner—(1 Pet 1:15).

Family:

To faithfully pursue God's design for singlehood, marriage, and/or parenting as revealed in the Scriptures and explained in Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas' Doctrinal Statement—(Matt 19:4-6; Exod 20:12, 14; 1 Cor 7:25-38).

Follow:

To submit to the authority of the Elder's leadership of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas —(Heb 13:17).