

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

In the early 1950s, A.W. Tozer, served as Pastor of the Southside Alliance Church in Chicago, Illinois. He began to sense a growing problem among those who called themselves Christians. In his words “a notable heresy” had crept in and become widely accepted by many both in his church and the greater evangelical church. Tozer said,

I must be frank in my feeling that a notable heresy has come into being throughout our evangelical Christian circles—the widely accepted concept that we humans can choose to accept Christ only because we need Him as Savior and we have the right to postpone our obedience to Him as Lord as long as we want to!

...

The truth is that salvation apart from obedience is unknown in the sacred Scriptures. Peter makes it plain that we are “chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit for obedience” (1 Peter 1:2). What a tragedy that in our day we often hear the gospel appeal made on this kind of basis: “Come to Jesus! You do not have to obey anyone. You do not have to change anything. You do not have to give up anything, alter anything, surrender anything, give back anything - just come to Him and believe in Him as Savior!”

Indeed, Christ must become Savior of our lives—His death, burial, and resurrection has accomplished this. But His authority—because of who He is—demands that we daily submit ourselves to His Lordship. The “heresy” of the 1950s continues to plague Christians some 65 years later.

Growing Christians must honor Christ as Savior *and* Lord. There can be no distinction. A growing Christian is an obedient Christian; authentic growth always results in active obedience.

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- Read Romans 1:1-6. In verse 5 Paul says, “we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations.” Many scholars understand this “obedience of faith” to be two-fold in nature:
 1. An obedience that consists of faith in Christ—faith exercised at conversion (Romans 6:17; 10:16; 15:18-20; 16:25-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8)
 2. An ongoing obedience that results from faith—faith validated as one continues to believe and obey (Romans 6:16; Ephesians 6:1, 5; Philippians 2:12; Colossians 3:20-22; 2 Thessalonians 3:14)

Have you experienced an obedience that consists of faith in Christ? How does a person experience saving faith in Christ Jesus?



- Do you have a story of how you trusted Christ as Savior? Briefly share your Gospel story using Billy Graham's three-minute model:

30 Seconds — Tell what your life was like before you received Jesus.

30 Seconds — Explain what caused you to turn to God.

90 Seconds — Share how you obeyed Christ to receive Him as Savior.

30 Seconds — Explain how your life changed because you have obeyed Christ as Lord and Savior

- Growing disciples are called to have an ongoing obedience that results from faith in Christ. Their faith is validated as they continue to believe and obey. Describe how your faith is validated as you believe and obey Christ? How are you actively obeying Christ in a way that results from faith?
- Continue reflecting on Romans 1:5. Disciples bring about the "obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations" through the practice of evangelism and discipleship. Define "evangelism" and "discipleship". Which of these two disciplines comes more naturally to you? Discuss how you are actively practicing that discipline. For the discipline that comes less natural, identify why you think that is the case. What would help you grow in this area? How is an obedience that results from faith essential to the disciplines of evangelism and discipleship?
- Consider the obedience of faith in the life of Abraham. You can read an overview of his life of faith in Hebrews 11:8-19. Additionally, you can read more about specific ways his faith influenced his obedience: Acts 7:2-8; Romans 4:1-3, 13-25; Galatians 3:1-9; James 2:21-26. Abraham committed to place his life under the Lordship of God. Discuss Abraham's obedience of faith as demonstrated in Hebrews 11. How can a person living in a 21st Century North American context exhibit a similar faith? Share a time when you trusted God implicitly, even though there was no logical support for your action. How was Christ glorified in your action?

Do Life Together

These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!

- How is God calling you to "grow up" in Christ this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has Jesus proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

Pray Together

Pray through 1 John 2:3-6.



Warren Baptist Church or Warren Grovetown



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