

CONVERSATION GUIDE:

OPENING QUESTIONS:

- What's the most confusing cultural trend or belief you've encountered recently that made you think "the world has gone backwards"?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- If you had to explain to a child what a "lord" is, how would you do it? What examples would you use?
- The "name above every name" is "Lord" (Kyrios), not just "Jesus". Why is this distinction important for understanding Jesus' identity?
- How does understanding the Old Testament background of "Adonai" (Sovereign One) deepen our grasp of what it means to call Jesus "Lord"?
- Why was calling Jesus "Lord" particularly bold and dangerous in the Roman Empire of Paul's day?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

- We live in a "confused culture" where basic Christian truths are controversial. How do you experience this in your daily life (work, school, social media, etc.)?
- What does it practically mean for Jesus to be Lord of your life?
- How can acknowledging Jesus as Lord help us "bring calm to chaos" in our relationships and conversations?
- In what situations do you find it hardest to live as if Jesus is truly Lord? What holds you back?
- What's one way you can practically "step into the world" this week as Jesus stepped into ours?

GROUP FOCUS: Read Philippians 2:9-11 aloud.

- What specific actions does God the Father take regarding Jesus in these verses?
- Who will bow to Jesus? What does this scope tell us about His authority?
- What is the ultimate purpose stated in verse 11 for every tongue confessing Jesus as Lord?



WEEK 22 THE JOY THAT JESUS IS LORD (PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11)

TODAY'S VERSES:

Philippians 2:9-11

Proverbs 25:25-26

Hebrews 4:12

Psalm 119:105

Isaiah 6:1-3

Psalms 8:1

Psalms 110:1

Hebrews 1:1-4 & 13

Isaiah 45:6 & 23

Hebrews 6:13

Luke 2:11

JUNE 29, 2025

WEEK 22

THE JOY THAT JESUS IS LORD

In our confused and chaotic culture where truth seems relative and basic Christian beliefs are controversial, we need clarity. The answer to cultural confusion is found in one profound truth: Jesus Christ is Lord.

Being clear should be important to us because of the cultural moment in which we live. There is confusion in most people about what the Bible actually teaches and who "God" is. We have to answer the confusion and the chaos with *clarity*. The book of Proverbs contains wisdom that reminds us that good news is like cold water to a thirsty soul. When we aren't clear, and give way to "muddied waters", there is no life-giving nourishment or refreshment.

The name "above every name" given to Jesus isn't simply "Jesus," it is "Lord" (Greek: *Kyrios*). The title of Lord carries incredible weight (glory). At the founding of the Roman Empire Caesar Augustus claimed the title *Kyrios* to demand worship (Caesar is lord), Paul declares that Jesus alone is the true Lord over all earthly powers and Christians proclaim that Jesus is Lord.

History Lesson #1

During the time of Jesus, the title *Kyrios* could refer to the lord of the manor, to slave owners, to kings and princes, but first and foremost it related to Caesar. Paul is telling us that unlike Caesar, or kings and princes, Jesus is over all of them. He is Lord.

History Lesson #2

A few hundred years before Jesus was born, many Jews had assimilated into Greek culture (the Bible calls these Hellenistic Jews). Many of them lost the ability to speak Hebrew, and were instead speaking the language

of the day, Koine Greek (which is the same Greek that the New Testament was written in). A translation of the Old Testament was brought about in Greek called the Septuagint (the translation of the 70) in order for the Hellenized Jews to be able to understand the Bible. The Septuagint would translate the word for God as "*Kyrios*."

The word "Lord" (*Kyrios*) in Greek translates the Hebrew "Adonai" – meaning "Sovereign One", God's own title. Paul is making a stunning declaration: Jesus is not just a great teacher or prophet, but God Himself in flesh. As adopted children of the sovereign Lord, we bring calm to chaos by sharing Gospel truth with our confused world, stepping into it as Jesus stepped into ours.

We are called to live in this muddied world by knowing the clear truth, the Gospel. We share this clear truth not by stepping away from the world, but by stepping into it just like Jesus stepped into it for us. What does Jesus is Lord mean for us? It means every conclusion that Paul has made in Philippians chapter 2. We can have one mind centered in Christ that would lead to a humility like Jesus had. We can empty ourselves knowing He has given us all we need and work through restoration with one another because we get to work out the salvation that has been worked in us. We can shine like stars in this dark world and pour our lives out with purpose. We can now be examples to those around us of the great love and grace of Jesus.

Jesus is OUR LORD who set aside His glory to come and rescue lost and wayward children, and bring us back to God.