



Learning from the Lord

October 2020

Week 1 - The Lord your God

Week 2 - Jesus is Lord

Week 3 - My Lord and My God

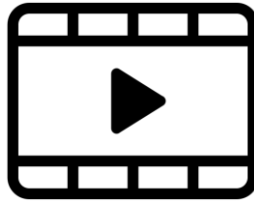
Week 4 - Come Lord Jesus



Psalm 16:8

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Week 1 The Lord your God



Watch “The Lord Your God” video on church website or Facebook page

Video summary

You find the 10 commandments in Exodus 20:1-21.

God speaks. He speaks commands and laws. The first commandment is to put God first.

We need to look at what God says first. He says

“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt. Out of the land of slavery”

In the passage *The Lord your God* is a phrase used 4 times. *The Lord* is used a further 3 times.

The context before the commands are given (Exodus 19) is of *The Lord* descending in incredible glory on Mount Sinai. After the commandments the people are in fear and awe of such an awesome being who has come so close.

There is one mighty, awesome, creator God who rules. He is The Lord. There is none other like him. He is first and must be first because he is everything. He is to be worshipped and adored and respected. Everything begins with him (in the beginning God.... Gen.1:1).

He is the alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. The one who was and is and is to come, the Almighty (Rev 1:8).

In the week ahead there are 3 personal study sessions looking at the greatness, the goodness and the glory of God.

Set aside some time to be alone with God 15- 30 minutes.

Begin each personal study session with the prayer below.

Don't worry about getting all the right answers just be open to what God will say to you.

A prayer that can be used as you begin each time you sit alone with God

Psalm 16:8

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Prayer

Lord I am looking to you
Please reveal more of yourself to me
I want you to be at my side
I want you to hold me firm

Week 1

Personal study 1 The greatness of the Lord

Job 38 – 42

Job in the midst of his suffering, with all his unanswered questions, has been calling on God for answers.

God speaks to Job 38:1. He is a big voice speaking out of a storm.

But instead of answers for Job, God asks Job some questions.

Count the number of questions God asks in chapter 38+39.

Take time to answer the questions that God asks (out loud may be helpful). How many can you answer?

God was showing Job how small and weak and helpless he truly was. Who was Job to question God? Look at **40:1-5**. Why do you think God make Job feel so small?

In 42:5 Job says – *my ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.*

Job has had a personal encounter with the Lord. He understands how great God is in a whole new way.

Look at **42:1-6**

How does Job answer the question *who is The Lord*?

Do you ever forget how GREAT God is?

How important is it to remember God's greatness at this time?

Activity - Putting it into Words

On the next page you will find the **Putting it into Words page**

As you study this month we want to take some time to reflect on who God is.

Using the different letters of the alphabet write further examples of God's character or his names or his attributes under each letter.

Some examples have already been given to get you started.

Putting it into Words

The Lord is

- A** Alpha, amazing.....etc.-----
- B** Beautiful-----
- C** Creator-----
- D** Deliverer-----
- E** Exalted-----
- F** Foundation-----
- G** Good-----
- H** Holy-----
- I** Infallible-----
- J** Just-----
- K** Kind-----
- L** Love-----
- M** Mighty-----
- N** Noble-----
- O** Omniscient -----
- P** Pure -----
- R** Redeemer-----
- S** Saviour-----
- T** Teacher-----
- U** Unequaled-----
- V** Victorious-----
- W** Wise-----

Week 1

Personal study 2 The goodness of the Lord

Read Psalm 34

Verses 1-2

For David praising the Lord is something he does outwardly (with his lips v.1) and inwardly (with his soul v.2).

How and when have you done either or both in the last 3 days?

David invites you to *fear the Lord* v.9. Why is it good to fear the Lord?

David is going to teach us how to fear the Lord v.11.

How do you do it?

v.13

v. 14

The *eyes of the Lord are on you* (v.15) or the *face of the Lord is against you* (v.16)

The Lord is watching and listening to and protecting the righteous.

He is against the wicked.

What does this teach us about the goodness of God?

Activity

David invites you to *Glorify the Lord with me* v.3.

Write down 5 good things about the Lord. I glorify you because.....

1

2

3

4

5

You might want to listen to this song on YouTube

Search

“Goodness of God”

by Bethel Music & Jenn Johnson

Week 1

Personal study 3 The glory of the Lord

It is not an everyday, normal experience for a human being to see God. For the Bible characters these great visions of God are rare. For the most part we humans have to relate to a God we can't see. We have a relationship with a God who is invisible. Seeing God is difficult because he is so glorious and different and beyond us.

Read Isaiah 6:1-8

What does Isaiah see?

What impact does seeing God have on Isaiah (v.5)?

Read Exodus 24:3-18

What does Moses and the others see?

How had they prepared to see God (v.3-8)?

Read Revelation 1:9-20

What does John see?

What impact does it have on him?

Do you desire to see God?

What preparations can you make to be ready for encountering God?

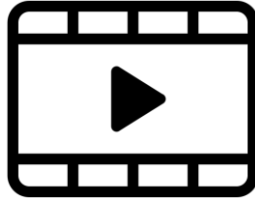
Take a few moments to pray this prayer for yourself and others in our church family

*Lord God you are great and good and glorious
Please reveal more of your almighty greatness
Please help us know more of your incredible goodness
Please show us more of your awesome glory*

Activity - Putting it into Words

Use these descriptions of God to add some words to your **Putting it into Words page 4**

Week 2 Jesus is Lord



Watch “**Jesus is Lord**” video on church website or Facebook page

Video summary

John 20:24-31

When the other disciples said *we have seen the Lord* Thomas wasn't convinced.

He said *unless I see and touch* I won't believe.

A week later – Thomas puts his fingers into the nail marks on Jesus' hands.

He had journeyed with Jesus – seen the miracles and heard the words and miracles.

The powerful proofs and signs pointing to his true reality.

Now he is resurrected – it is sealed – the final nail in the coffin for Thomas' belief is the reality of a nail pierced hand holding his own.

Jesus is alive – Jesus is Lord.

As Peter preaches on the Day of Pentecost he gives a clear proclamation of who Jesus is.

Acts 2:36 let all of Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus whom you crucified but Lord and Christ

A prayer that can be used as you begin each time you sit alone with God

Psalm 16:8

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Prayer

**Lord I am looking to you
Please reveal more of yourself to me
I want you to be at my side
I want you to hold me firm**

Week 2

Personal study 1 **His glorious greatness** **John 1**

When the gospels tell us of the birth of Jesus they do it in different ways. Matthew and Luke tell us many of the human story details. Mark doesn't mention it at all but simply moves to the ministry of Jesus. John puts the birth of Jesus in a broader perspective of all eternity.

Using the different accounts answer these questions.

When was Jesus born?

Luke 2:1-7

John 1:1

Who made Jesus?

Matthew 1:18-25

John 1:1-3

Where did Jesus live?

Matthew 2:19-23

John 1:1-2

What did people see when they looked at Jesus?

John 1:10

John 1:14

Who is this man? That is one of the questions that people were asking in the gospels as they watch what Jesus does and says and claims.

Activity

Imagine you meet someone who has moved from a foreign country. They have never really heard about Jesus and know nothing about him. They send you this text message

Who is this Jesus I hear people talking about?

Write a text message that you would send to them to explain who Jesus is

Jesus is...

Why not send this text to Stephen 0861953833 and share it with others on your contact list

Week 2

Personal study 2 **His powerful presence**

The stories of Jesus are incredible. They are full of impossibilities and wonders. In John's gospel he shares 7 signs. These are 7 stories that offer proof of who Jesus is. They are demonstrations of what Jesus can do and act as proof of who Jesus is.

Take time to read these 7 signs

- 1 Changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11);
- 2 Healing the royal official's son (John 4:46-54);
- 3 Healing the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem (John 5:1-15);
- 4 Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:5-14);
- 5 Walking on water (John 6:16-21);
- 6 Healing the man born blind (John 9:1-12)
- 7 Raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-45).

Pastor and theologian Timothy Keller says:

[Miracles] lead not simply to cognitive belief, but to *worship*, to awe and wonder. Jesus' miracles in particular were never magic tricks, designed only to impress and coerce. . . . Instead, he used miraculous power to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and raise the dead. Why? We modern people think of miracles as the suspension of the natural order, but Jesus meant them to be the restoration of the natural order. The Bible tells us that God did not originally make the world to have disease, hunger, and death in it. Jesus has come to redeem where it is wrong and heal the world where it is broken. His miracles are not just proofs that he has power but also wonderful foretastes of what he is going to do with that power. Jesus' miracles are not just a challenge to our minds, but a promise to our hearts that the world we all want is coming

Activity

From believing to worshipping

Prayerfully add some words to your **Putting it into Words** sheet on page 4 specifically focusing on who Jesus is.

Deep down do you struggle to believe that these stories are true? Maybe you have doubts that you have never been able to share with anyone. If so you may find some useful answers to questions you have on www.explorethegod.com.

You might want to look up the website and watch some of their videos
e.g. www.explorethegod.com and search for *Is Jesus really God?*

Week 2

Personal study 3 His greater glory

Jesus was an ordinary human man living a human life in the midst of a real family and community. He was also extraordinary. He performed signs and miracles. He showed incredible wisdom and teaching. On one specific occasion some of his disciples had a glimpse of even greater glory.

Read Matthew 17:1-13 the transfiguration

Every day these disciples see Jesus as a normal human being but here on top of the mountain for a moment they see something more. They have a glimpse of the greater glory – the reality that is normally veiled in flesh.

What extraordinary things did Peter, James and John see?

Read what Peter writes about this experience in **2 Peter 1:16-18**.

We have not made up stories but we were eye witnesses of his majesty.

What has God the Father given Jesus v.17?

John who saw Jesus transfigured also saw a vision of Jesus in heaven.

Read Revelation 5

What does John see revealed about Jesus?

Activity

Take some time to reflect on these different images of Jesus that we carry in our minds

- 1 A baby in a manger
- 2 A good teacher helping people
- 3 A dead man hanging on a cross
- 4 The Lamb on the throne

What picture of Jesus do you carry with you the most?

Are any of these pictures missing from your understanding of who Jesus is?

How does each picture help your faith?

Week 3 My Lord



Watch **“He is my Lord”** video on church website or Facebook page

Video summary **when Jesus becomes personal**

Saul meets the living Jesus on the Damascus road (Acts 9).
Paul is overwhelmed by the person he meets.
Paul asked a question – *Who are you Lord?(9:5)*.

Paul meets Jesus and realises that Jesus is the Son of God.
This becomes an unshakable conviction that shapes Paul’s life.

Because of Jesus, Paul is transformed.
Because of Jesus, Paul changes the direction of his life.

A progression from believing in God, to accepting Jesus of Nazareth as God on earth to personal loyalty and commitment to Jesus in our lives.

*I believe in the Lord God Almighty
Jesus is The Lord
Jesus is my Lord*

When Jesus becomes personal it means I have a captured heart, a surrendered heart and an obedient heart.

A prayer that can be used as you begin each time you sit alone with God

Psalm 16:8

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Prayer

**Lord I am looking to you
Please reveal more of yourself to me
I want you to be at my side
I want you to hold me firm**

Week 3 My Lord

Personal study 1 **Enthralled by Jesus**

Being a Christian should be first and foremost about something positive.
We are to be a people who love Jesus.

Read Philippians 3:7-11

Paul is obsessed by Jesus. He is incredibly passionate about and committed to Jesus. He has a deep longing to know Jesus. Knowing Jesus is more important than anything else for Paul. He speaks about - *the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord* (v.8).

Honestly reflect on these questions

Do you find Jesus loveable?

What attracts you to Jesus?

How much do you love Jesus?

Maybe you find yourself closer to Teresa of Avila than to Paul when you look at the temperature of your love for Jesus

O God, I don't love you, I don't even want to love you but I want to want to love you
Teresa of Avila

I want to know Christ (v.10) Paul

Don't be discouraged or frustrated, simply ask God to increase your desire for Him.

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple
Psalm 27:4

Activity

To look into a loved one face, to appreciate a beautiful sunset, to admire a work of art.

These things take time and inspire love and appreciation.

Take time to gaze on the beauty of Jesus – to marvel and wonder at who He is.

Some ideas that may help:

- Use the Putting it into Words sheet page 4.
- Reflect again on some gospel stories and particularly Jesus' interactions with people.
- Read the crucifixion story to remind yourself how much Jesus loves you and how much he has done for you (Matthew 26:31-28:10).

Week 3 My Lord
Personal study 2 Surrendered to Jesus

The book of Romans is a great explanation of gospel theology. Paul writes the good news of what God is doing in Christ. A story that flows through all of eternity and effects all of history. When he sees all that God has done, is doing and will do he bursts into a great outpouring of praise.

Read Romans 11:33-36.

Then comes the personal implications of this great gospel good news. Paul wants us to think about how we respond to this gospel?

Read Romans 12:1-2

Picture yourself acting out v.1 – offering your body to God:

You walk up to the altar,

You climb on and lay your life down and offer yourself to God.

You surrender to God and say;

You are in charge.

You are in control.

I want to live life your way.

I want to be renewed and transformed.

I was in Bible college for 4 years in the mid 90's. We had college devotions a couple of times each week led by staff and students. There are only a few specific talks I can remember from all those I listened to and one was based on this passage. I vividly remember this line from that sermon

- the problem with a living sacrifice is that it can keep crawling off the altar.

A living sacrifice has to continually be examined to make sure it remains firmly placed on the altar.

Activity

Use the circles on the next page to represent these different areas of your life.

Your family life.

Your secret life that people don't see.

Your work life.

Your finances.

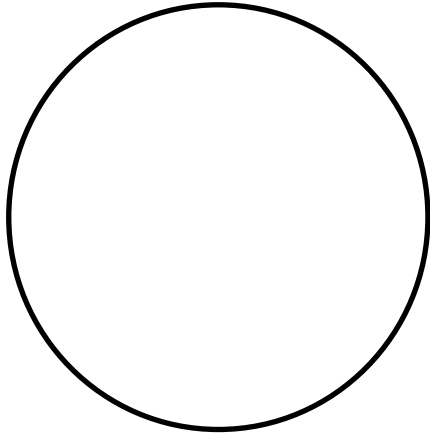
How central is God? (Mark a dot in the circle).

How do I see God in this part of my life? (Write inside the circle).

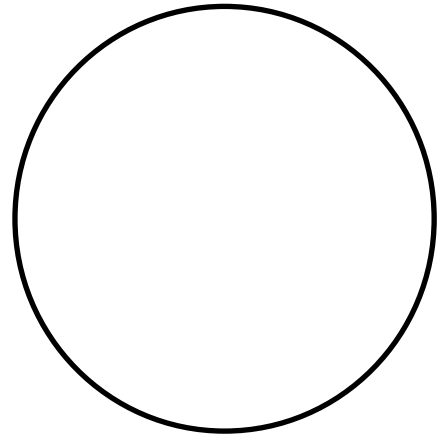
What changes could I make to make Jesus Lord here? (Write outside the circle).

Using the 5th circle;

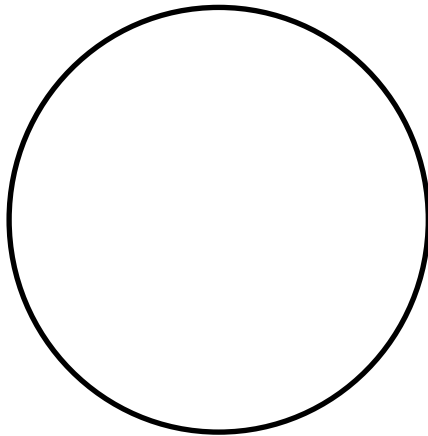
Are there other parts of your life that don't belong to God at the moment?



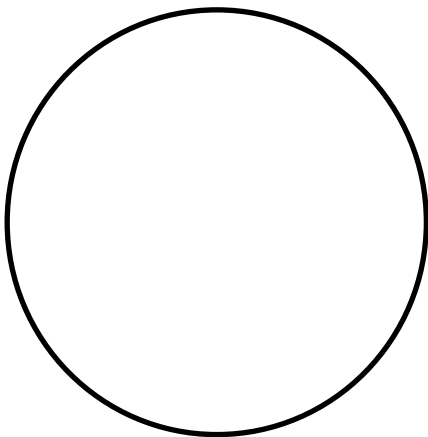
My family life



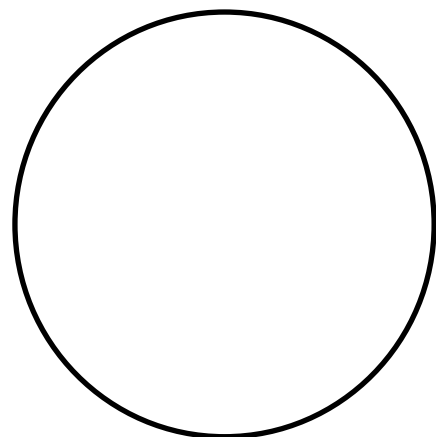
My work life



My secret life



My money



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Week 3

My Lord

Personal study 3

Obedient to Jesus

Jesus is Lord

– a proclamation

I confess Jesus as Lord

– a submitting

I obey Jesus as Lord

– a lifestyle

Having Jesus as Lord is about a lifestyle of obedience.

I walk in His ways and build my life around His teaching.

I do what he says because He rules over my life and I belong to Him.

His Lordship of my life is seen in my daily choices and actions.

Read these verses and reflect on what God would say about how you are living your life in the last week – i.e. your lifestyle.

Matthew 7:21

His name can be on our lips but our lives focused on doing my will rather than His.

Matthew 7:22-23

I can be doing religious things and incredible things but not be focused on knowing Jesus and what He wants.

Matthew 7:24-27

I can know his words but not be putting them into practice.

James 1:22-25

I can listen for a while and then forget to do.

James 2:14-17

I can talk a lot about faith but be limited in doing anything practical.

Activity

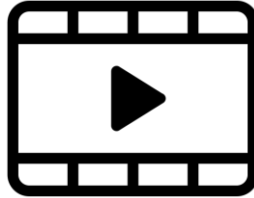
This is a prayer activity. Take 2 kitchen chairs. Sit in one with the other opposite you.

Imagine Jesus is in chair opposite you.

Using your insights from above, realign yourself to God in prayers of repentance and commitment.

e.g. Look Lord I have turned away from you (turn your back on the chair opposite) because I said this to Bob..... I have forgotten to keep a reign on my tongue. Forgive me Lord. I turn back to you (turn to face the chair in front again) and want to honour you in how I speak.

Week 4 Come Lord Jesus



Watch “Come Lord Jesus” video on church website or Facebook page

Video summary

2 different realities – heaven and earth

Heaven Where Jesus is – where He reigns – unblemished and perfect

Earth Jesus is here but...
Jesus reigns here but....

The disciples’ prayer - your Kingdom come; your will be done Matt.6:10

The churches’ cry - Maranatha (Come Lord Jesus) Rev.22:20

We want Him with us.

We want God’s reality (heaven) to come here (earth).

We want God’s world to be our world.

We want Jesus to return and fulfil all God’s promises.

A prayer that can be used as you begin each time you sit alone with God

Psalm 16:8

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Prayer

**Lord I am looking to you
Please reveal more of yourself to me
I want you to be at my side
I want you to hold me firm**

Week 4 Come Lord Jesus

Personal study 1

Patient hope

Romans 8:18-27

Paul contrasts what we experience now and the fullness of what is to come.

Present suffering – future glory that will be revealed.

Groaning with frustration now – glorious freedom to come.

Firstfruits of the Spirit now– the fullness of salvation to come.

Look at the type of language Paul uses about our Christian experience in this world

We live with eager expectation (v.19)

We groan inwardly (v.23)

We wait eagerly (v.23)

We hope for what we don't have (v.24)

We wait patiently (v.25)

Take a moment to examine your heart. Do you suffer from any of the following spiritual ailments?

An excess of groaning and complaining.

A lack of patience.

A loss of hope.

Activity

Share your heart with God in prayer.

Take time to write things down

Share your frustrations with God about the current state of your life in this world.

Share some of the things you are really looking forward to and hoping for.

Commit to 3 specific items for prayer that you will pray for regularly from now until the end of 2020.

1

2

3

(Write these down somewhere that you will be able to see them and access them regularly).

Week 4 Come Lord Jesus
Personal study 2 Sowing

Hosea 10:12

Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love and break up the unploughed ground for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes

Activity

Reflect back over the materials from the past month.

Is there anything new God has taught you?

Is there anything God has reminded you about?

What has God been saying to you?

What has God planted in you this month that needs to be nurtured until it bears fruit?

Reflecting on these answers, what practical things do you now need to do?

Week 4 Come Lord Jesus

Personal study 3

To Share

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing but let us encourage one another – and all the more as we see the day approaching

In these days our meeting with others has been dramatically affected by Covid.

More than ever we need to find ways encourage one another

As God has been speaking to you, please share what God has been doing because that will be a blessing to others.

Who to share it with

1 person in your family.

A close friend.

Your minister or elder.

A few people in the church that you know have been doing the Alone Together programme.

How to share with someone else

A text message - An email - A phone call - A conversation - A letter – A zoom call.

What to share

This is what God has been saying...

This is what I have learnt....

This is something I have been struggling with...

This is something I would like you to pray for....

This is a commitment I have made ...

Many other things....

Activity

Simply Share

A final prayer

**Lord God you are great and good and glorious.
Please reveal more of your Almighty greatness to us.
Please help us know more of your incredible goodness.
Please show us more of your awesome glory.
Lord come and be with us in these days.
Lord come and build your kingdom in our lives
For the glory of Christ. Amen.**