

LESSON TWO: HOW TO BE SAVED AND KNOW IT

SESSION TWO

TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics or facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

This is the second session in a series of four that, taken together, explain how to be saved and to have biblical assurance of one's salvation. In the previous session, Pastor Rogers shared that the Bible tells us that we can know with certainty that we are saved, and that we need not live with doubts. He also explained in detail that we are saved by grace, through our faith in Jesus. In this session, Pastor Rogers will begin to explore the birthmarks of true believers—three biblical indicators that should be present in the life of every Christian.

PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader's Guide**.

CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests, and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

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INTRODUCTION

Many individuals believe that just because they have walked the aisle of a church, received a Certificate of Baptism, or even attended worship services regularly, that they are Christians. In fact, many people even believe that because they live in America, possess a belief in God, and celebrate Christmas along with Easter, that those things make them Christians. In our previous study, Pastor Rogers examined what the Bible has to say about salvation, grace, and faith. In this session, Pastor Rogers identifies the first of three biblical “birthmarks,” or indicators, that reflect the presence of Christ in the lives of genuine believers.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

1 John 2:3-6 “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What would you consider to be the Biblical characteristics, or traits, of a true believer?
- If Christians were ever placed on trial just for being Christians, what kind of evidence do you think would be needed to convict them?

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: “How to Be Saved and Know It”**AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION**

“You’re not saved because you keep the commandments, you keep the commandments because you’re saved.” —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: One of the first true tests of a genuine believer is the Lordship Test: “By this we know that we know Him, **if** we keep His commandments” (1 John 2:3). As Pastor Rogers explained, this is not a verse demanding perfection, but by using the present tense, it is a verse that directly scrutinizes the present-day activities of our lives. In the original language, the word that we translate, “keep,” not only described how sailors would steer by the stars, but it also had the connotation of guarding or being watchful over something. It is where the term, “castle keep,” comes from, which was the highest tower of a castle designed specifically to guard against and provide warning to counter an approaching enemy.

For Discussion: In your opinion, what does the lordship of Christ look like in the life of a true believer?

Amplification: The commandments and precepts of God are the mechanisms by which we steer our lives; they also provide us with protection. In other words, “If you call yourself a Christian and are not steering by God’s commandments, and if you are living a habitually sinful life with no conviction, no compunction, no contrition, no disquietude, then don’t call yourself a Christian, because you are not” (Adrian Rogers). Jesus is Lord and Savior, but He cannot be our Savior if He is not our Lord.

Simply to call oneself a Christian, even to actively participate in church, does not earn one a place in Heaven. Only submission to the lordship of Christ through genuine repentance of sin, and faith in His atoning death and resurrection will allow one to become an everlasting child of God. Remember the acronym for FAITH that Pastor Rogers shared in the previous session, “**Forsaking All, I Trust Him.**”

To follow Jesus means to walk in His steps, to seek after His ways, to allow Him lordship over your life. There was a man who turned to his friend one day and said, “That man over there must have served in the military or attended a military school.” The friend asked, “How can you tell?” He said, “By the way he walks.” You can also tell when some people have been with Jesus by their walk. When we walk with Jesus as Lord of your life, we will have a natural propensity to steer by God’s Word and to shun sin. That does not mean we will live lives of perfection and will never fail, but it does mean that we do not willingly choose to sin. It means that we recognize our sin when we fail, confess it, and then repent of it.

For Discussion: What are some of the struggles or distractions in life that work against us living lives surrendered to the lordship of Christ?

Application: The late Dr. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ (today known as “CRU”), used to speak of the practice of “spiritual breathing.” Just as we breathe out bad air to be replaced by good air, the regular practice of true believers should be immediate confession when they sin (exhale), followed by immediate appropriation of forgiveness by faith in Christ’s atoning death (inhale). For some, this “spiritual breathing” is needed infrequently, for others of

us, we may find the need to intentionally breathe this way many times throughout the day. The point is, a true believer **does not want** to sin, and because of the “Lordship Test,” his/her life will be marked by a desire to “keep” (steer their lives by) the Word of God. Jesus said in Luke 6:46, “But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?”

For Discussion: What are some of the things we can do to help strengthen our reliance on the lordship of Christ in our lives?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your personal devotions, make it a point to study Psalm 119:33-40. As you study, make this passage of Scripture your personal prayer back to God. (It is a powerful practice to pray the Word of God back to God!) Choose one or two verses from this passage to memorize and pray the words back to God throughout your day.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – “Lord, teach us Your ways, and help us to live lives that honor You as reflected by our steadfast submission to Your Lordship.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

The book of Psalms is a book of prayers and worship. Personalizing prayers recorded there helps us commune with God and become intimate with Him by praying His Word back to Him. As you meditate on Psalm 119, make it your personal prayer.

Psalm 119:33-40 “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish Your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You. Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your judgments are good. Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me in Your righteousness.”

As you read the warning from Jesus Himself, consider how He makes clear that works, even those “done in His name,” that lack the foundation of personal intimacy with Him, are considered “lawless” deeds.

Matthew 7:22-23 “Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'”

To call oneself a Christian, and yet ignore the teachings and precepts of Christ, is hypocrisy. As you study these verses, ask the Lord to reveal to you any changes you may need to make in your life to help you know, and obey, His commands.

Luke 6:46 “But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?”

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Andrew Murray, “The School of Obedience” (CreateSpace, 2018)
- John MacArthur, “The Gospel According to Jesus” (Zondervan, 2008)
- Matthew Henry, “The Secret of Communion with God; How to Begin the Day, Spend the Day, and End the Day with God” (Kregel, 1991)

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VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

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For Discussion: What are some of the struggles or distractions in life that work against us living lives surrendered to the lordship of Christ?

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