

## **Lordship Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one thing you would like to change about Philadelphia (or the community where you live)?
2. What is one food that would be really difficult for you to give up?

**Read the following passage:** Acts 2:14-21, 36.

In this sermon on the day of Pentecost, Peter explains that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the disciples have just experienced is a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy recorded in Joel 2:28-32. In Joel 2:32, the word "LORD" is in all capital letters (check it out in your Bible), indicating that the underlying Hebrew word is Yahweh, the divine Name. Jews in Jesus' day would not speak God's name, but would instead substitute the Hebrew word adonai, which translates into English as "Lord." Peter concludes his sermon in Acts 2 by saying that Jesus is the "Lord" that Joel indicates we are to call upon. In other words, Peter is equating Jesus and Yahweh, the God of Israel, the creator of heaven and earth. Peter and the other apostles took this bold step because of the way Jesus revealed Himself to them in places like Matthew 12:1-8 and many others.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Given what we have said above, explain some of the theological implications of the confession "Jesus is Lord," a confession which Paul (in Romans 10:9) says is a basic component of salvation.
2. If Jesus Christ was a human being, why is it appropriate to worship Him?
3. Read Luke 6:46-49. What does Jesus imply is the natural corollary of receiving Him as Lord? How can we practically know what Jesus wants us to do?
4. What does it mean for Jesus to be the most fundamental affiliation in our lives? What does this mean for your life?
5. The religious leaders in Jesus' day strictly adhered to their understanding of the Law's requirements, but were distant from God in their hearts. Explain the difference between a commitment to religious principles (or doctrines or laws) and a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord.
6. Does having a relationship with Jesus Christ mean that "rules" are now obsolete? (See, for example, 2 Thessalonians 3:10.) What should our perspective toward "rules" be?

be?

7. Would you say that you are currently following Jesus as Lord? Explain. Are there any areas of your life in which you are not obeying Jesus Christ?
8. Following Jesus as Lord implies submitting our wills to His and doing what He desires for us to do. Why do you think so many people in Jesus' day were willing to do this?

**Pray**