

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

How Great Thou Art, I'm Still Standing, Indescribable

WELCOME

Truth and Lie. Give two opposing truth claims about yourself then ask the group which among the two is true about you.

WORD

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14–15

¹⁴For **the love of Christ controls us**, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;¹⁵and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for **Him who died and rose again on their behalf**.

TRUTH MATTERS

Why do you do what you do? Why do you believe what you believe?

For the Apostle Paul, it is the love of Christ that compels him to do what he does (**2 Corinthians 5:14–15**). Love is one of the most powerful motivations that controls what we do. But love is not based on sentimentalism or feelings, it is anchored on truth.

Truth matters and even if we deny the truth or disagree with it, it is still the truth. It is not a matter of preference. So, what is the nature of truth?

1. Truth is not truth just because the majority of people believe it.
2. Truth does not cease to exist even if you don't believe it.
3. Truth does not depend on our feelings.
4. Truth must correspond with facts.
5. Truth is narrow and exclusive.

Two or more contradictory truth claims cannot both be true at the same time and in the same sense. Only one claim can be true because truth is exclusive. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (**John 14:6**). Either Jesus was lying or He is telling the truth.

But until we know who Jesus is, we may find it hard to believe Him. To do so, we need to know life's two most important questions.

LIFE'S TWO MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Saul the Pharisee, a true Jew and well-educated under the best teacher in his time, was so hostile to Jesus

(**Acts 22:3–4**). For him, Jesus was a fake teacher and that is why he was so determined to destroy all His followers. But God had other plans for him. On his way to Damascus to get rid of more Christians, Jesus confronted him.

Saul, who would soon become Paul, asked Jesus with life's two most important questions which we should also ask ourselves: "**Who are you, Lord?**" and "**What shall I do?**" (**v.8–10**).

Who are You Lord?

Who is the Lord? The answer is Jesus. What is the proof? For the Apostle Paul, the ultimate proof is Jesus' coming back to life (**1 Corinthians 15:3–8**). The resurrection is not a legend or a myth. He wrote that the resurrected Jesus appeared to His followers before He ascended to heaven. In fact, He also appeared to him. Without Christ's *resurrection*, Christianity would just be another religion. But if Jesus really died and rose again, then He is truly Lord. This is the truth that will nail down why we believe what we believe.

It was unthinkable for a Christian persecutor like Paul to be converted to Christianity but God pursued him. If God can save Paul, He can also save the difficult people we have been praying for. Dr. Simon Greenleaf, a Royal Professor of Law at Harvard, author of the classic "A Treatise on the Law of Evidence" investigated the truth about the resurrection of Jesus based on the "Rules of Evidence." His study led him to a conclusion that "The resurrection is one of the best documented events in the history of man." Soon after his investigation, he became a follower of Jesus.

WORD (cont'd)

What shall I do Lord?

To Paul's second question, Jesus appointed him to be a minister and a witness to tell people about Him, to open their eyes that they may turn away from darkness to light, to receive forgiveness for their sins and inheritance through Christ (**Acts 26:16-18**). For the first time in Paul's life, he was not fully in control, Jesus was. This was because Jesus had become the Lord in Paul's life.

Until you recognize that Jesus is Lord, you are not truly a follower of Christ. Your life must reflect that Jesus is truly your Lord; otherwise, His Lordship is only head knowledge. If you believe Jesus and He is your Lord, you will follow Him and obey His Word.

If Jesus is our Lord, then we should do what He wants us to do. Why bother serving Him, coming to Bible studies, Dgroup meetings and worship services, unless Jesus is truly our Lord. Feeling good cannot be the basis of what we do; it must be anchored on truth. If Jesus is our Lord, then we need to accept all that he said. The Bible tells us that Jesus talked about heaven and hell. Those who follow Him will go to heaven, those who do not are bound to hell (**Matthew 13:49-50; Mark 9:47-48; Revelation 21:3-4**).

Our answer to life's most important question will impact our entire life. It will determine what we will do in our life and why we will do it. If Jesus is our Lord, everything we do in our life is all about Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Love Compels.** What controls Paul according to 2 Corinthians 5:14-15? Why does it control him?
- 2. Believe Me.** What do you believe about Jesus? Why do you believe what you believe?
- 3. Follow Me.** What is God calling you to do? What makes you follow Him?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Together with your Dgroup, take the challenge to share the gospel to at least 33 people until end of December 2017. You can improvise a template like the one below for each Dgroup member, to help them keep track of the people they will pray-care-share. Share your personal experiences in your succeeding Dgroup meetings. Below is an example:

DGroup Member: Johnny

Name List	Relationship	Pray	Care	Share	Call to Action as of
1. Steve	Captain of the League	Yes	Yes	Yes	Invite to join a Dgroup
2. Chris		Yes	Yes		Invite to CCF Sunday Service
3. Robert		Yes	Yes		Invite to a Couples Retreat
4. Tony		Yes	Yes		Invite to Family Ministry
5. Peter		Yes	Yes		
6. Tom		Yes	Yes		
7. Jeremy		Yes	Yes		
8. Charles		Yes			
9. Mark		Yes			
10. Nick		Yes			

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends