

Unlocked: Jesus is Lord

[Parents: Use this resource to teach your kids about what you learned in today's message.]

Today in Harborside Kids your child learned something different. Ask your child what they learned today and if they can say the memory verse: Great blessings belong to those who know they are spiritually in need. God's kingdom belongs to them. Matthew 5:3 (elementary verse)
You are God's chosen and special people. 1 Peter 2:9a (preschool verse)

Now follow this lesson to talk about the Lordship of Jesus.

Who is "in charge" in your life? Think about all of the people in a day or week that you listen to and obey. Make a list of everyone you can think of – parents, teachers, coaches, crossing guards, instructors, friends, employers, etc. It could be a pretty long list!

Talk together about the people you each listed. How well do you know those who are in charge in your life? What are some things you do to get to know them?

Next, talk about how are they "in charge." What happens when you listen to your teacher and do what he or she says? What happens when you listen but don't do what he or she says?

Each day there are people we listen to and obey. Did you know Jesus listened and obeyed others, too? Even when he began teaching people about God, doing miracles, and healing people, Jesus went to His Father to know what to do. In John 6:38 Jesus said,

"I have not come down from heaven to do what I want to do. I have come to do what the One who sent me wants me to do."

Jesus obeyed his Heavenly Father, and even though He knew He was God's Son, Jesus humbled himself. Jesus, the Son of God, chose dying on the cross over his position as the ruler of all so we could be made right with God.

Read Philippians 2:5-10 and discuss it together.

So God lifted him up to the highest place.
He gave him the name that is above every name.
When the name of Jesus is spoken,
everyone will kneel down to worship him.
Everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will kneel down to worship him.
Philippians 2:9-10 (NIRV)

Jesus listened to His Father often. As a boy Jesus learned the Scriptures. When he began teaching people about God, Jesus often went off by himself to pray and talk to God and listen to Him. Read this verse in John 5:19:

"Jesus answered, 'What I'm about to tell you is true. The Son can do nothing by himself. He can do only what He sees his Father doing. What the Father does, the Son also does.'"

We can choose to do the things God has for us to do, too. When we choose to do what God wants us to do even when we would rather do something else, we are choosing God to be the Lord of our life.

It's not always easy to do what God wants us to do instead of what we want to do! Can you think of a time it was hard for you to do what God wanted you to do? Every time we choose to do what God wants, we worship God and give Him glory!

Jesus told a story to some people who thought they were right with God. They thought they understood who God was and how to please Him. They thought they had made God the Lord of their lives. The surprising thing in the story Jesus told is that the person everyone expected to be the good example was actually the bad example. Read the story together in Luke 18:9-14.

What were some of the “right” things the Pharisee did? So why wasn’t he the good example?

How was the prayer the tax collector prayed different from the prayer the Pharisee prayed?

In verse 14 Jesus said this about the tax collector, “I tell you the tax collector went home accepted by God.” Why did Jesus say this about the tax collector and not the Pharisee?

The tax collector understood something about himself and about God that the Pharisee didn’t understand. The tax collector knew he was sinful and unworthy to be in God’s presence. And because he was aware of his need for God, he asked God for mercy.

The Pharisee talked to God about why he was worthy to be heard by God in prayer as if he didn’t have any sin and didn’t need God’s mercy.

But Jesus said those who make themselves humble will be lifted up – God will lift them up!

All those who lift themselves up will be made humble. And those who make themselves humble will be lifted up.
Luke 18:14b (NIRV)



A Royal Throne!

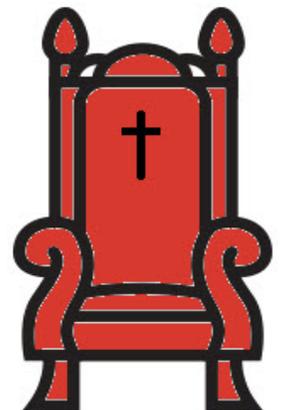
Choose a chair in your house and make it a royal throne. Decorate it however you like to make it a seat of honor. You might throw a blanket over it or tie ribbons to it.

Take turns sitting on the royal throne and playing the role of the king or queen. Give “orders” to your subjects. Tell them some things to do like “Please bring me a glass of lemonade,” or “Sing a song for me,” or “Bring me my favorite toy.”

Talk about how it felt to be told what to do by the king or queen.

Did you know we all have a “ruler” of our heart and lives? God wants to be on the throne of our heart. He created us, knows everything, is all powerful, and all good gifts come from Him. He is the only one who can rule our heart and lives in the best way. But we must ask him to.

What does it look like each day for God to be on the throne of your heart? Talk about it together and how wanting to please God and praising Him for who He is helps us make wise choices, to be generous, to obey, and to put others first.



THRONE OF MY HEART

If Jesus is the Lord of your life, ask Him to show you how He can rule and reign in your heart everyday: with your family, with your friends, when you are alone, at school, in your neighborhood, etc. Next, decorate the throne below and write down things you need God's help with in doing things His way instead of your way. You could also write a prayer to God telling Him you want to Him to be Lord of your life.

