

Leader's Guide

What follows is for men and women who lead Links Fellowships. Remember, these are recommendations and should not be followed in a legalistic manner. Like a golf swing, leaders have different gifts, talents, personality and styles. Therefore, please feel the freedom to pick and choose from the suggestions that follow or disregard altogether.

And remember, like golf courses, no one audience is exactly like another. Links Fellowships share many similarities; yet they also differ in many ways. Be sensitive to attendees, especially be mindful of the vast differences between those who follow Jesus and those who do not. We hope this guide will encourage you to pray and prepare diligently before hosting your fellowship.

May God continue to richly bless all your endeavors in expanding Jesus' reign!

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Devotional Title

Questions Redux: Why Do You Call Me Lord?

Main Scripture

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”
—Luke 6:46, ESV

Main Idea

Jesus distinguishes between verbally recognizing him and actually trusting him. Christian obedience does not earn salvation; it flows from a changed heart that depends on Jesus as Lord.

Audience

- Men who are young in their faith
- Men who are exploring Christianity
- Men with no faith in Christ
- Men who may be familiar with church language but have little experience discussing spiritual matters
- Men who have known and walked with Jesus for years.

Leader's Preparation

Before the meeting, the leader should:

- Read Luke 6:27–49, paying particular attention to verses 46–49.
- Read the devotional a couple times.
- Identify the main point you want the group to remember.
- Prepare a Bible, printed or digital copies of the devotional (optional).
- Pray for humility, wisdom, and a welcoming atmosphere.

The leader does not need to have every answer. A helpful response to a difficult question is:

“That is a good question. Let’s look at what this passage actually says, and if we do not resolve it tonight, we can continue exploring it.”

Leader’s Central Aim

By the end of the meeting, participants should:

- Understand the basic meaning of Luke 6:46.
- Recognize the difference between knowing Jesus’ teaching and trusting him.
- Understand that obedience is a response to grace, not a way to earn salvation.
- Consider what it means to call Jesus “Lord.”
- Identify one practical response to Jesus’ teaching.

The desired outcome is that each man has honestly wrestled with Jesus’ question.

Suggested 45–60-Minute Schedule

Time	Segment	Purpose
3-minutes	Welcome	Establish a relaxed atmosphere
10 minutes	Opening conversation	Connect with the golf illustration(s)
2 minutes	Read the Text	Let Jesus’ words guide the discussion

Time	Segment	Purpose
12 minutes	Read or summarize the devotional	Introduce the main idea
15 minutes	Group discussion	Explore the meaning and implications
5 minutes	Application	Move from discussion toward application
3 minutes	Closing prayer and next step	End graciously

Opening the Meeting

Welcome the men and briefly explain the purpose of the gathering:

“Today we are going to consider a question Jesus asked: ‘Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I tell you?’ Our goal is for honest questions and healthy discussions.

Opening Conversation: The Golf Illustration

Use the story of the former club professional to begin.

You might say:

“The story describes a golfer who received instruction but was not putting it into practice. When the pro watched him again, the pro said, ‘You aren’t doing what I told you to do in the last two sessions.’” (This is intended as a humorous story-make it fun)

Ask one or two of these questions:

- Have you ever received golf instruction that you knew was good but failed to follow? What are some reasons for that?
- In golf, what is the difference between understanding a correction and actually changing your swing?

Allow several men to answer, but do not let the opening discussion become a long debate about golf technique. After a few responses, transition:

“That gap between knowing and doing is the doorway into Jesus’ question. He is asking why someone would call him Lord but not follow his teaching.”

Reading the Scripture

Read Luke 6:27–49 if time allows. If the meeting is closer to 45 minutes, read Luke 6:43–49.

Ask the men to listen for Jesus’ description of a person who hears his words and acts on them.

Presenting the Devotional

Read the devotional or selected portions aloud. If the group is large, having one person read the entire devotional may take too much time. A practical option is to read these sections:

- The golf professional illustration
- “The gap between understanding and execution...”
- “Submitting our lives to Jesus...”
- The final paragraphs concerning what it means to call Jesus “Lord”

You can summarize the remaining material:

“The devotional emphasizes that Jesus is not presenting obedience as a way to earn salvation. Instead, obedience is the fruit of trusting him. A person who has been changed by grace begins to live differently because he trusts the King.”

Before moving to discussion, state the central distinction clearly:

“We are not talking about earning God’s acceptance by performing well. We are talking about whether trust in Jesus produces a willingness to hear and follow him.”

Discussion Questions

Use the number of questions that fit best for your group. Choose questions that fit the group’s maturity and openness. If these don’t work for you, create a few of your own that do.

Understanding the Passage

- What does Jesus appear to be criticizing in Luke 6:46?
- Why might someone call Jesus “Lord” but refuse to do what he says?
- What does the picture of building on rock add to the meaning of Jesus’ question?
- How is Jesus’ teaching different from ordinary advice about becoming a better person?

Connecting Faith and Obedience

- What is the difference between knowing what Jesus teaches and trusting Jesus?
- Why can obedience be misunderstood as a way of earning salvation?
- If salvation is by grace, why does obedience still matter?
- What kinds of pressure make it difficult for men to follow Jesus in daily life?

Applying the Golf Illustration

- What can golfers learn from the difference between hearing a lesson and practicing it?
- What happens when a golfer keeps asking for instruction but never applies it?
- How might a person do something similar in spiritual life?
- What role do trust, repetition, and perseverance play in changing our habits?

Exploring the Personal Question

- When you hear the word “Lord,” what does it communicate to you?
- Is Jesus someone you admire, someone you are investigating, or someone you are willing to follow?
- What part of Jesus’ teaching is easiest for you to respect but hardest to practice?
- What would change if you treated Jesus’ words as the authoritative direction for your life?

Do not ask every man to disclose his spiritual position publicly. Some men may be willing to discuss ideas but not personal convictions. Give them room to participate at the level of honesty they can manage.

Questions for Men Who Are Not Yet Christians

Men with no faith in Christ may hear the word “obedience” as religious control or moral pressure. Clarify what the devotional is claiming:

“Christianity does not begin with a person proving himself worthy through obedience. It begins with hearing who Jesus is, recognizing our need, and trusting him. Obedience is the response of someone who is learning to follow him.”

Helpful questions include:

- What do you find compelling or difficult about Jesus’ question?
- What would you need to understand before you could seriously consider following Jesus?
- What do you think Christians mean when they say that Jesus is Lord?
- What is the difference between being forced to obey someone and willingly trusting someone’s leadership?

Avoid assuming that silence means agreement or that disagreement means hostility. A thoughtful objection can be a valuable part of the conversation.

Questions for New Christians

New believers may feel discouraged because their obedience is inconsistent. Emphasize growth rather than perfection:

- Where have you seen even a small change in your response to Jesus?
- What makes it difficult to follow Jesus consistently?
- What Christian practice could help you listen to Jesus more regularly?
- Who could encourage you as you seek to put his teaching into practice?

Remind the group:

“The foundation is Christ, not your ability to perform perfectly. At the same time, those who trust Christ are gradually shaped by his Word.”

Handling Common Challenges

“I believe in Jesus, but I do not think obedience is necessary.”

Possible Response:

“The devotional is not saying that obedience purchases salvation. It is asking whether a person who truly trusts Jesus will remain completely indifferent to what he teaches. Jesus connects hearing his words with putting them into practice.”

“Christians are hypocrites, so why should anyone listen to them?”

Possible Response:

“That criticism has real force when Christians say one thing and live another way. Jesus himself confronts that gap. The Christian hope is not that believers are flawless, but that Christ forgives and changes people who trust him.”

“Does this mean I have to become perfect?”

Possible Response:

“No. The picture is not perfection overnight. It is a new direction built on a secure foundation. Growth includes failure, repentance, learning, and continued dependence on Christ.”

“I do not know whether I believe.”

Possible Response:

“You do not need to pretend. Luke 6 invites you to take Jesus seriously and examine his words. You can continue asking honest questions while considering what he claims about himself.”

Practical Application

Move the group toward one specific response. Say:

“Jesus’ question is not only about what we think. It reaches into what we do. Take a moment to consider one area where you know what Jesus teaches but have not yet followed him.”

Offer examples without assigning them to anyone:

- Forgiving someone
- Speaking truthfully
- Resisting a destructive habit
- Treating someone with dignity
- Making time to hear God’s Word
- Asking for help
- Placing career, money, or reputation under Christ’s authority
- Beginning to investigate who Jesus is

Ask the men to reflect silently for one minute. Then invite discussion with this question:

“What makes it difficult to move from recognizing Jesus’ teaching to trusting him enough to follow it?”

For men who are ready to identify a next step, invite them to write one sentence:

“Because I am considering or trusting Jesus as Lord, my next step is...”

No one needs to read his sentence aloud.

Closing Summary

Use a concise summary such as:

“Tonight we have considered the gap between saying and doing. Jesus asks why people call him Lord but do not follow his teaching. The answer is not that we earn salvation through better performance. The gospel is that God’s grace saves sinners through faith in Jesus Christ. That faith, however, does not remain merely verbal. Those who trust Christ begin to hear his Word, depend on him, and follow him. The foundation is Christ, and the evidence develops in a life of faithful obedience.”

Closing Prayer

A leader may pray:

“Father, thank you for sending Jesus Christ, the true King and the sure foundation. Forgive us for the ways we speak about you without trusting you, and for the ways we know what is right but refuse to follow. Give us honest hearts, humble dependence, and the courage to consider Jesus seriously. Help those who trust him to grow in joyful obedience, and draw those who are still searching closer to the truth about Christ. Amen.”