LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Who Are You, Lord?

From recognition to surrender, transformation and mission

Based on the sermon preached by Werner Steyn at The Bridge Church on 16 August 2026

AIM FOR 30–45 MINUTES

Hear the Word together first, then let the sermon and Scripture shape the conversation. The three discussion topics are designed to move from meaning, to heart response, to practical obedience.

SERMON RECAP

Werner took us into Acts 9 and Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Saul was sincere, zealous and certain - yet he was fighting against the very work of God. Jesus interrupted him with a personal question: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' Saul replied, 'Who are you, Lord?' That question became the doorway into the whole message: recognising Jesus' authority is not the same as truly knowing Him.

The sermon then followed the change in Saul's direction. The man who arrived with authority was told to go into the city and wait to be told what to do. The man who thought he saw clearly became blind and dependent. The man who boasted in pedigree, education and zeal later counted those gains as loss compared with knowing Christ. The closing challenge was that a genuine encounter with Jesus is personal, transformational, missional and supernatural - and it moves us from 'Who are You, Lord?' to 'What would You have me do?'

READ THE WORD ALOUD TOGETHER

ACTS 9:3–6 (NIV)

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'

Have one person read Acts 9:3–6 aloud slowly. Then ask a second person to read it again. Before anyone explains or discusses it, allow a short moment of silence so the group can hear the words and notice what stands out.

If time allows, have another person also read Acts 1:8 aloud. Werner connected Saul's transformation directly to Jesus' call that the Holy Spirit empowers His people to be witnesses.

KEY SERMON POINTS

- The atmosphere we create matters: what we repeatedly breathe in eventually becomes what we breathe out.
- Saul knew God's will as he understood it, but he did not yet understand God's way; sincere zeal can still be tragically misdirected.
- Jesus identifies personally with His church: Saul was not merely persecuting believers - Jesus said, 'You are persecuting me.'
- Christology is the cornerstone: if our understanding of Jesus is wrong, the rest of our theology can be impressive and still be skewed.
- Real Lordship moves from recognising Jesus to asking, 'What would You have me do?'
- A genuine encounter is personal, transformational, missional and supernatural.

THREE DISCUSSION TOPICS

1 What atmosphere am I breathing?

Saul's hostility had become the atmosphere of his whole life, while Werner showed how greed, ambition, bitterness or hopelessness can do something similar in

us. What tends to shape the atmosphere around your own life at the moment? How can we tell when something has moved from being a concern or desire to becoming the thing that colours almost everything? Where might Jesus be asking you to let Him change your ‘way’ rather than merely adjust your opinions?

2

Who are You, Lord - and what do I value most?

Saul had enormous religious knowledge but still had to ask who Jesus was. Later he counted his pedigree and achievements as loss compared with knowing Christ, while the rich young ruler struggled to release his ‘many things’. What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually growing in knowing Him? What are the achievements, comforts, identities or ‘many things’ that most easily compete with Christ for first place in our lives?

3

What would You have me do?

Werner challenged the version of Christianity that asks Jesus to serve our plans. Saul’s encounter moved quickly into obedience, dependence and witness. Of the four marks - personal, transformational, missional and supernatural - which most challenges you right now? What would a concrete next step of obedience or witness look like this week if we genuinely prayed, ‘Lord, what would You have me do?’

PRAYER TOGETHER

Use the discussion to guide prayer. Keep it simple and sermon-rooted:

- Ask Jesus to expose any unhealthy atmosphere of pride, bitterness, ambition, accusation or hopelessness that is shaping the way we live.

- Pray for a fresh hunger to know Jesus Himself, not merely to know Christian information about Him.
- Ask for humility to be taught, corrected and led through the people God places around us.
- Pray for courage to release any ‘many things’ we value above obedience to Christ.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to make our faith visibly transformational and to show each person where to be a witness this week.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

CARRY THIS INTO THE WEEK

Do not stop at calling Jesus “Lord”. Keep asking both questions: “Who are You, Lord?” and “What would You have me do?” - and be willing for His answer to change your way.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.