

**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**

If you could meet any person of royalty from any real time or place, who would you want to meet and have a conversation with? Why?

**INTRODUCTION**

The tradition of bowing before royalty as a sign of respect has existed for many thousands of years. Bowing is a practice we see in the Bible, too. The Israelites bowed their heads in worship when they learned that God heard their groaning and sent Moses and Aaron to them (Exodus 4:31); Moses bowed his head before God when God met him on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:8); and Scripture tells us that we will all bow before Jesus, the King of kings, one day.

What if every time you looked in the mirror you declared about yourself, “You will bow before Christ one day.” How could it affect you? How would it change the way you thought about the people in your life if you said to yourself, “He (or she) will bow before Christ one day,” every time you saw them? In an eternal sense, every person is equal—given value by God inherently, and responsible to bow to Him ultimately. We have opportunities to help people know they can bow the knee to Christ now to have a life of hope and peace now, and whole joy for eternity in heaven.

***READ Romans 14:7-12; Philippians 2:5-11; Revelation 7:9-10***

1. **How did Jesus demonstrate humility during His earthly life?**
2. **How is Jesus described throughout this passage?**
3. **How does this passage sum up the reason that all people will bow before Jesus one day? Why is He worthy of this?**
4. **How can we better mirror Jesus’s humility as we share the gospel?**
5. **How does this passage further emphasize the fact that Jesus IS exalted (placed at a high level or given high regard) over all people?**
6. **What things in these verses help us know what believers should live like?**
7. **Who is described in the Revelation passage and what are they doing? Why?**
8. **Read the passages again and share any images or responses that come to mind.**

**WRAP UP**

**Put today's lesson into action: How can you apply it to your life?**

Practice bowing in prayer this week. When you pray at home, get down on your knees. At least once this week, bow all the way to the ground in worship to God as you pray. The physical effort and humility this requires is a good reminder of the posture we should always have inwardly in prayer. When we bow before the Lord one day it shouldn’t feel unfamiliar to us.

As the group leader, share just a couple of sentences about how you realized you were in sin and needed Jesus to save you. Share that you’ve surrendered your life to Him. Make yourself available to have spiritual conversations with group members.

Challenge each other with this memory verse: “Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 2:5,

*Ask for any prayer requests and pray for one another as you think of people who need to hear the gospel this week.*

**EXTENDED CUT**

Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. During His earthly ministry, He lived as both God and man yet never exploited His divinity for His own gain. He humbly and obediently submitted Himself to death on a cross for our sake as the ultimate example of putting others first. When we are likewise concerned about others over ourselves, we will tell them about Jesus openly.

As Christ followers, we don’t belong to ourselves (1 Corinthians 6:19). We were bought with a price and, though we have free will, our lives are not our own. Our lives should be oriented around this truth: We belong to the Lord. This should affect the way we live daily—our conversations, how we interact with those around us, and how seriously we take the command of the Great Commission.

In our society, we could be formed by an endless number of things: Our culture, social media, politics, our work, money, power, the standard set by those in our neighborhoods, and the list goes on. But, as believers, we are meant to be formed by the influence of Jesus. We are formed with the help of the Holy Spirit and by the example of Christ. How did Jesus live? What did He do? How did He speak? What did He teach and how? These are all questions for consideration as we seek to reflect Christ in daily life. **What can you do this week to grow in the habit of surrendering every moment and every action of your days to Christ?**

Paul made clear that Jesus’s name is above every name and has power. Jesus also taught this idea (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:17-18; John 16:23-24). Also recall that, when we see the apostles heal in Acts, they heal in Jesus’s name. **Jesus’s name has power** (Acts 3:6-8). At Jesus’s name, every knee will bow (Isaiah 45:23). We get a small glimpse of this reality when the soldiers arresting Jesus fell to the ground as He proclaimed the name given to Moses at the burning bush, “I AM” (John 18:6). We are all destined to bow before Jesus. Every knee, “in heaven and on earth and under the earth” (v. 10). We will all bow before Jesus, confessing that He is Lord, an act that glorifies God the Father (v. 11). On that day, there will be no exceptions.

**Just as we read in Philippians, every knee will bow. No one is exempt.** Paul stated clearly that each of us will stand before the judgment seat of Jesus and give an account of our lives (2 Corinthians 5:10). Those who know Christ will give an account and be rewarded for faithfulness and continue into heaven eternally because Christians have demonstrated faith in Christ’s payment for our sins. How are we using our lives? Are we seeking humility and obedience or are we putting ourselves first? Are we following Jesus’s command to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20), and act as His witnesses to those who don’t yet know Him (Acts 1:8)? Those who have never trusted Christ will still bow before Him because of His authority, but they cannot receive His mercy. They will continue into hell for eternity without Christ.

This truth has serious implications for every person in history. Every person, from all times and places, royal or ordinary, wealthy or poor, will bow before Christ. He is their ultimate authority. Think about the people in your life who don’t know Jesus. They will one day bow before Christ, either in this life if they come to know Him as Savior and Lord, or at their judgement where it will be too late for them to have a relationship with Him and be saved. You have been placed in their lives for a reason, and God wants to use you to share the truth of Jesus with them.

In the end, the Great Commission will be fulfilled (Matthew 24:14), and we are called to join that work today. Salvation comes from the Lord, but we can be used by God as a part of someone’s salvation story when we are humbly obedient, as Jesus modeled. The Lord changes hearts, but He desires for us all to be workers in the field (Matthew 9:37-38), planting seeds that He will water and grow.

Like the believers from Revelation 7, we will all one-day stand before the throne of Jesus. Everyone responds to the gospel, either by accepting and believing it or rejecting it. Where do you stand today? If you have never come to know Jesus, there is no better time than now. If you are already walking with Christ, now is the time to share Jesus with the people God has placed in your life. As the believers in Revelation 7 proclaimed, salvation belongs to the Lord, but it is our job to sow gospel seeds. The Lord changes hearts, and He desires to use us to help lead people to Him. Being a part of living out the Great Commission is both a privilege and a blessing!