



**Life Group Study Notes**  
**“At the Table: The Gathered Church”**  
**Ps. Kevin York - July 28, 2019**

**Warm Up (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.**

- Who is one of the best bosses or coaches or leaders you’ve ever know?
- What is one quality that you think is important for a boss to have?
- Do you aspire to leadership roles? Why or why not?

**Word (10-15 minutes)**

**Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)**

The great ancient confession of the early church was “Jesus is Lord.”

Romans 10:9 ESV *[I]f you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

There are two fundamental alternative ways in which this confession will be made by everyone who has ever lived.

Philippians 2:9-11 ESV *[G]od has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Whether willingly or not everyone on the great day of the Final Judgment will be brought before him as he sits on his throne as creator, king, lord, judge, and redeemer. People will either affirm him as Lord voluntarily or reluctantly, either in anticipation of immortality, reward, and honor, or in dread, fear, and hostility.

The early church gathered together weekly to make their confession that Jesus is Lord. They worshipped him, learned of his will and how to obey him, prayed to him, and experienced his presence through the Holy Spirit. They strengthened one another in their faith, trust, and confidence in Jesus as Lord.

Hebrews 10:23-25 ESV *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

The assembly of the early church was also important for the purpose of spurring one another on to fulfill Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations. They embraced the responsibility to be faithful witnesses to the Lord Jesus. In many parts of the Roman Empire this was not an easy assignment. Persecution ranged from ridicule to arrest, torture, and execution. Historical accounts of the period inform us of the many stories of bravery of the early Christians to confess Jesus as Lord.

To summarize, the early church obeyed Jesus by gathering, confessing Jesus as Lord, and going on mission in their daily lives. The church today has the same responsibilities and privileges. We should assemble regularly (weekly) and consistently. We should confess Jesus as Lord and live in accordance with our confession. We should live missionally as Jesus' witnesses in our daily lives.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What is the level of your church participation (and attendance)?
- Is there anything in your mind, heart, life, or circumstances that is eroding your confession of Jesus as Lord?
- How would you describe your witness to Jesus among the people in your daily life?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for having revealed Jesus as Lord to us.
- Ask God for a greater revelation of Jesus' authority over our lives.
- Ask God for a great conviction to live out our confession of Jesus as Lord in our daily lives.