

THRONES



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Brief Description:

To be a Christian means you trust Jesus to be your savior but you also give him full access to your life as your Lord. This shape helps clarify that principle to non-believers when using it as an evangelism tool, or to believers when using it as an UP tool.

When to Use This Shape:

For the non-believer: This shape is about salvation. What must I do to be saved? This shape fills in the gospel decision part of the Missional Living Wheel shape. It is a helpful tool to use when you see people professing Christ but living a completely different way. We can never assume people actually know Jesus as their Lord and Savior- we always have to make the ask and tell them how.

For the believer learning this shape in huddle: This shape is about obedience.

Scripture Reference:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Romans 10:9-10

Description:

The word Lord is one we are unfamiliar with today. Used usually in reference to old stories and tales about kings, when we read it in the Bible today we can tend to gloss over what it means.

The greek word used in these verses for "Lord" is kyrios. Broken down, it means: someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler.

As a Christian, we belong to Christ, and he has the power, authority, and influence in our life. We do not call our own shots, but humbly seek to know God and know his will for our lives. He is our ruler, even above our desires, our culture, and our peers.

The Gospel demands a response. Jesus' death and resurrection on our behalf is an act of love that no one can ignore. With that information at our feet, we must lead people to make their own decision to make Jesus not just their Savior but also the Lord of their life.



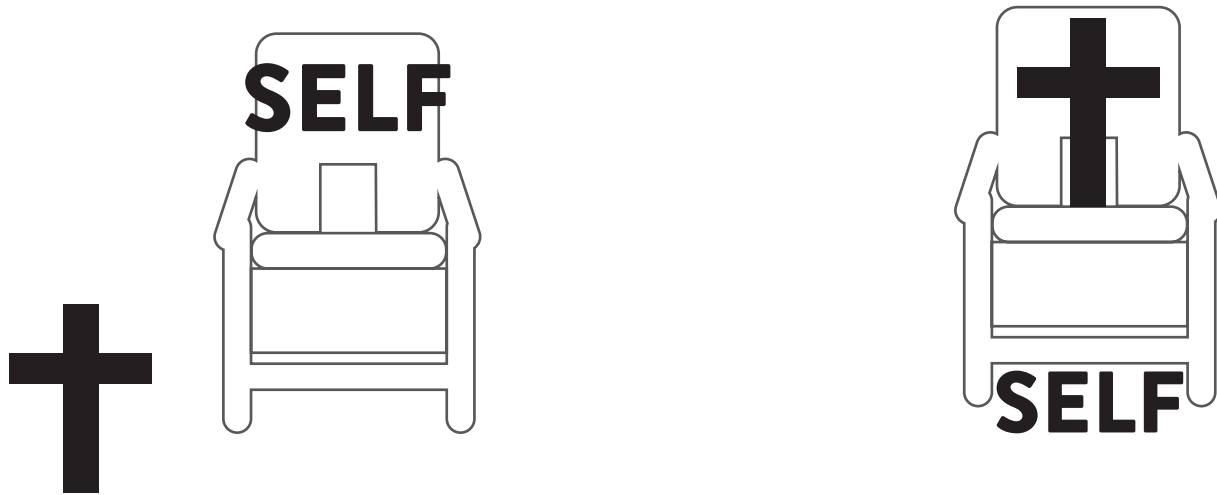
Shape:

An easy entry to this shape is after sharing the gospel. Is this something you believe? If so, have you fully surrendered to Jesus as your savior AND Lord? It is true that salvation is a free gift, it is nothing we can earn or do. However, in response to such a gift as this- our life back from the grave and a hope of eternal life with our saviour- we must obey out of gratitude and love.

Step 1: Draw 2 chairs

Chair 1 has a self on the chair and a cross at the foot.

Chair 2 has cross on the chair, and a self at the foot.



Explain that these two chairs represent the two different ways you can be living your life: either you are on the throne of your own life with Jesus to the side OR Jesus is on the throne of your life and you are to the side. Who is in charge? Who is calling the shots? Whose desires are most important?

ASK: Which throne best represents your life?

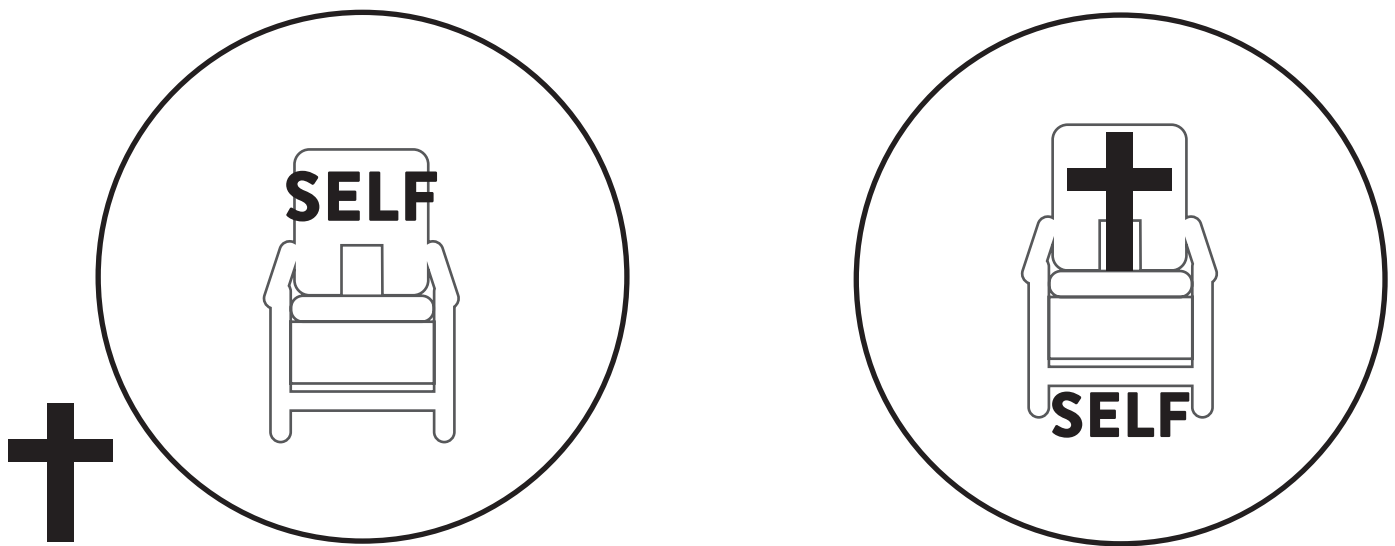


Step 2. Draw a circle around each chair.

Chair 1, draw a circle around the chair with the self on the throne and the cross outside of the circle.

Chair 2, draw a circle around both chair with cross and self inside.

Explain that if you are on the throne of your own life, you are not following Jesus and do not have a relationship with Him (Gal. 2:20). By being on the throne of your own life, you are keeping Jesus out of your life completely. You cannot have yourself on the throne and Jesus on the side. The Bible makes it clear that either you are in Christ, with him on the throne, or outside of a life with Christ, dead in your sin. He desires to be the first and only in our heart and life. He created us and knows that this all works best when we listen to him, our master creator. So when Jesus is first in our life and on the throne, only then we are able to be saved and fully know Him.



Step 3: (When sharing with a non-believer)

ASK: Which throne would you like to represent your life?

If they say the 1st, they are probably not in a place to want to know, believe in, and follow Jesus. Keep pursuing them and praying that someday, they do desire to and decide to put Jesus first. You can always come back to this illustration and ask again later if they are ready to put Jesus on the throne.

If they say they want the 2nd, you just may have a new believer in Christ! “because, if 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. (Romans 10:9) Get them in a Grow Group and teach them about their new identity in Christ.

Application questions to ask in huddle:

How does this shape clarify what it means to be a Christian?

Where are you trying to get back on the throne in your own life? Where is God asking you to let him have control and be on the throne?

Who is someone you would like to share this tool with?

Practice:

Take some time to pair off in your huddle and practice this tool with each other during your huddle time.

Have each person identify someone in their life who they see claiming Christ but may have never had the conversation with them, asking if they have their own personal relationship with Him. Try sharing it with someone new you meet this week, initiating a spiritual conversation with a stranger, walking them through the Gospel, and then the Thrones.

