

ANSWERS: Who Is God?: Lesson 4 God Is Sovereign

Learning to know and love God for who He is, His character, attributes and being

Lesson 4: God Is Sovereign (Day One) Ruler of All

Definition: As a noun the word sovereign means a supreme (highest, ultimate) ruler, especially a king. As an adjective, sovereign is defined as possessing or having supreme or absolute power. In terms of the Bible, the sovereignty of God means that He is *the* Supreme and Ultimate Ruler of the universe. God is the source of all creation and all things depend on Him. Nothing, including evil and suffering, can occur without God's permission or authorization.

Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.¹² Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-13 and answer questions 1-5:

1. Is there anything in heaven and earth that does not belong to God (v.11a)? Yes **No** (Circle One)

2. Who is exalted (praised, honored, glorified) as head over all (v.11b)?

The LORD, God, or Yahweh.

3. Who is the ruler of all things (v.12a)?

The LORD, God, or Yahweh.

4. Who has the power to exalt (raise in rank, power or character) and give strength (v.12b)?

The LORD, God, or Yahweh.

5. Give God thanks and praise (admire, honor) His glorious name (v. 13). Write your praise:

Personal answer of praise. CLI Bible Minister: Please join your learner in praise by writing an agreement with at least one of his or her God honoring comments.

Scripture References in Lesson:

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

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God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Numbers 23:19

...in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time... Titus 1:2

Definitions: Universe is defined as all of space and everything in it, including stars, planets and galaxies. A galaxy is a system of millions or billions of stars held together by gravity. The earth's galaxy is known as the Milky Way and our planets rotate around the sun. The phrase, the heavens and the earth, is the same as referring to the entire creation or universe.

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32:17

6. Read Jeremiah 32:17. How much power do you think it took to make the universe?

Personal answer but certainly mind boggling power!

"But he stands alone, and who can oppose him? He does whatever he pleases." Job 23:13

7. Read Job 23:13. No one can resist or defeat God. He does whatever He pleases.

"For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?" Isaiah 14:27 (Thwart means to stop or prevent.)

8. Read Isaiah 14:27. No one can stop God and His plans. When He decides to do something, no one can turn it back.

9. Did God allow Joseph to be rejected and abused by his brothers? **Yes** No (Circle One)

10. Have you ever been rejected and abused by family? Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer. Please make an understanding comment. Your learner may be sharing raw and tender feelings. Memories may be hurtful.

Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me. Psalm 27:10
(The Hebrew word translated receive, also means to gather, take up, accept or hold close)

11. Read Psalm 27:10. Who receives you and holds you close, even if others, including your mother and father, leave or desert you?

The LORD, God, Yahweh or Jesus.

12. Share a time when God gave *you* success or granted *you* favor?

Personal Answer. If your learner cannot remember a time of favor or blessing, encourage him or her to seek God's favor and then look for it. Be thankful for any and all blessings, even water to drink.

Note: God's sovereignty and providence does not mean that humans have no part or responsibility for their actions. The Bible is clear that God has given us free will. We are answerable and accountable to God for our choices. We will look deeper into this subject later.

13. Personal Application: Write Psalm 33:11 without looking at your Bible or notes:

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Lesson 4: God Is Sovereign (Day Two) *God wants to be Known*

Scripture References in Lesson:

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.
Psalm 90:4

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:8

14. Do you think being upset with circumstances in your life is the same as being upset with God? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer:

Personal answer but yes, because God is in control of all circumstances. When we are upset with circumstances we are not placing our faith in the God who controls all things. Whether or not God caused the situation or allowed it, He decides how He will work it out for good. Instead of being upset, we should pray for God to intervene and give Him glory for being sovereign.

15. Name 3 ways the sovereign hand of God was at work in Joseph's life:

Here are 7 ways the sovereign hand of God was at work in Joseph's life (there could be more):

- (1) God initially gave Joseph a dream he shared with his brothers.*
- (2) God allowed Joseph to be sold into slavery.*
- (3) God gave Joseph favor where he went.*
- (4) God put Joseph into prison.*
- (5) God had two of the king's officials placed in prison with Joseph.*
- (6) God gave Joseph the ability or gift of interpreting dreams.*
- (7) God gave Pharaoh a dream that no one except Joseph could interpret.*

Scripture References in Lesson:

The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion. Psalm 11:5

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How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
Psalm 13:1

Test me, LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; Psalm 26:2

because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. James 1:3

For even his own brothers did not believe in him. John 7:5

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. Luke 4:16

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. Luke 4:28-29

Read Isaiah 53:10-11 and answer questions 16-18:

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities (sins).
Isaiah 53:10-11 (This is a prophecy about Jesus. Prophecy is inspired words of God's will.)

16. Was it the LORD's sovereign plan and will for Jesus to suffer (v. 10a)? **Yes** No (Circle One)

17. The LORD makes Jesus' life an offering for _____ **sin** _____ (v. 10b).

18. How will the LORD's sovereign plan for Jesus, the righteous servant, be successful (v. 11)?

Jesus, God's righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities or sins.

God is made known through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Jesus suffered so we may have forgiveness and everlasting life.

Scripture References in Lesson:

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Genesis 12:2-3

So also Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." ⁷ Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. ⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Galatians 3:6-9

19. How are you sharing or telling others about Jesus?

Personal answer, but please encourage your learner in however he or she answers the question. If sharing regularly, praise God. If not, encourage him or her to think about who Jesus is to them and tell someone. Tell them to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide them. If they specifically ask for help, let them know that the next Bible study, *CLI Leadership study*, will go more into detail about sharing one's faith. In the meantime, pray and tell them you are praying for their endeavors in sharing Christ.

Scripture References in Lesson:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 2:5

Read Genesis 50:18-20 and answer questions 20:22:

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?"²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. Genesis 50:18-20

20. Why did Joseph's brothers fall down before him and say, "We are your slaves" (v. 18)?

They were afraid Joseph would have them locked up in prison or have them put to death. Joseph had the power to do either.

21. What does Joseph mean when he asked, "Am I in the place of God?"

Ultimately, God is in control, not Joseph.

22. Write out v. 20 and then share how this verse encourages you:

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Scripture References in Lesson:

For no one is cast off by the Lord forever.³² Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.³³ For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone. Lamentations 3:31-33

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Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. Isaiah 53:10

When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the LORD caused it? Amos 3:6

Read Daniel 4:35 and answer questions 23-24:

All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" Daniel 4:35

23. God does as He pleases with the _____ **powers** _____ of _____ **heaven** _____ and the _____ **peoples** _____ of the _____ **earth** _____.

24. Does anyone have a right to question how God runs the world? Yes **No** (Circle One)

Personal Application: Meditate (think deeply) about God being sovereign.

25. How does this attribute of God affect (shape, influence) your relationship with Him?

Personal Answer

Lesson 4: God Is Sovereign (Day Three) Blessing and Judgment

Then Job replied to the LORD: ² "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. Job 42:1-2

26. Read Job 42:1-2. Can any plan of God's be thwarted (stopped)? Yes **No** (Circle One)

Read Job 42:3-6 and answer questions 27-29:

*You (God) asked, 'Who is this that obscures (hides, conceals) my plans without knowledge?' Surely I (Job) spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. ⁴ "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.'⁵ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. ⁶ *Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.*" Job 42:3-6 (Parentheses added for clarity by author of study)*

27. God wants to know who would dare question His plans with such limited understanding. How does Job answer (v. 3b)?

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

28. God then told Job to listen while He spoke. God would question Job, and he was expected to answer. How did Job respond (v. 5)?

My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you

Note: Job says, “but now my eyes have seen you.” We are not exactly sure how Job saw God, but we do know he did *not* see God’s face. No one can see God’s face and live (Exodus 33:20, 23). Job may have seen a form of God or the pre-incarnate Christ. Pre-incarnate means before Christ was born on earth. Incarnate means in the flesh or in human form.

Job’s words about seeing God may also be in the symbolic sense of knowing God better. Job comes to know God through his suffering. His faith becomes real through his experiences and he will now trust God in His supreme plan, even if it means suffering.

Note: Dust and ashes were placed on one’s head as a sign of sorrow, mourning and humility.

29. Why does Job despise himself and repent in dust and ashes (v. 6)?

He spoke of the things of God that he did not understand and so he humbled himself before the LORD.

But going a little deeper, Job sees his own righteousness as nothing compared with a holy God. He humbles himself and repents of his sins. During Job’s ordeal, he tried to justify himself and spoke without real knowledge.

Definition: Repent means to sincerely turn from sins to God. Turning to God means to follow and obey Him. Repentance also includes being truly sorry for wrongdoing.

Scripture References in Lesson:

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." ¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. ¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." ¹² "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. John 9:1-12

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him." John 9:3

30. Read John 9:3. How were the works of God displayed in the blind man (v. 7)?

Jesus miraculously gave the blind man the gift of sight. (Note: In the lesson, the learner was asked to read the whole passage, John 9:1-12, so should be able to answer the question.)

"I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the punishment I inflict and the hand I lay on them." Ezekiel 39:21

31. Read Ezekiel 39:21. How is God displaying His glory?

God displays His glory through the punishment He inflicts on the nation of Israel.

32. How did God make Himself known through the blessings He gave to Job, Joseph and the blind man?

In each case, God's blessings were so incredible that people and nations would know they could not be credited to man's abilities but to God's. Note: The learner may write the actual blessings from the lesson below. If so, just write out the above answer for them as an addition to their answer.

From the lesson: God makes Himself known through blessings or favor. We are told that God blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He was given wealth, sons, and daughters and lived to be 140 years old (Job 42:12-17). Joseph was also given wealth and a powerful position in Egypt. And the blind man was blessed with a miraculous cure by the Son of God.

Personal Application:

33. Think about Joseph, Job and the blind man. Pray and ask God to use *you* to make His name known. Share any impressions (ideas, feelings) you have about God's answer to *you*:

Personal answer and please provide encouragement.

But for the sake of my name, I brought them out of Egypt. I did it to keep my name from being profaned in the eyes of the nations among whom they lived and in whose sight I had revealed myself to the Israelites. Ezekiel 20:9 (Profaned occurs when God is disrespected or ridiculed.)

34. Read Ezekiel 20:9. God acts to protect His identity and His _____ name _____.

Scripture Reference in Lesson:

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:1-3

"Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" Exodus 32:13

35. Read Exodus 32:13. In asking God not to be angry with the Israelites, who does Moses want God to remember?

Moses reminded God of His word or promise to Abraham, Isaac and Israel (Jacob).

Scripture References in Lesson:

This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts after the king's share had been harvested and just as the late crops were coming up. ² When they had stripped the land clean, I cried out, "Sovereign LORD, forgive! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!" ³ So the LORD relented. "This will not happen," the LORD said. ⁴ This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: The Sovereign LORD was calling for judgment by fire; it dried up the great deep and devoured the land. ⁵ Then I cried out, "Sovereign LORD, I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!" ⁶ So the LORD relented. "This will not happen either," the Sovereign LORD said. Amos 7:1-6

Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish. ¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. Jonah 3:9-10

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:7-12

You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:2-3 (Also read Matthew 7:7-12)

36. Read James 4:2-3. We do not have because we do not ___ **ask** ___ God. When we do ask, we do not receive, because we ask with ___ **wrong** ___ motives (reason for doing something). Our prayers are selfish and we want things that give us personal ___ **pleasures** ___.

Prayer helps us recognize our dependence on God. We rely on Him alone for our every breath. All that we have and do is a result of God. By praying, we place our trust in God's divine sovereignty. We accept His answer and go forward as the Holy Spirit leads. In addition, God may withhold blessings until we seek Him in prayer and acknowledge our dependence on Him.

"And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough? ²¹ You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols." Ezekiel 16:20-21

Definition: In the Old Testament, a prophet was a person who received and gave a message from God. In the New Testament, a prophet speaks for God or Christ. In both cases the prophet may speak through the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Prophecy is to speak the words the Lord has given. Prophecy also means to foretell or predict the future. It is speaking with assurance on the basis of what God has said.

"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: How much worse will it be when I send against Jerusalem my four dreadful judgments-- sword and famine and wild beasts and plague-- to kill its men and their animals!" Ezekiel 14:21

37. Read Ezekiel 14:21. What are four judgments that the LORD may send?

(1) sword (2) famine (3) wild beasts and (4) plague

"You will be consoled when you see their conduct and their actions, for you will know that I have done nothing in it without cause, declares the Sovereign LORD." Ezekiel 14:23

(Note: You is plural and refers the exiled Israelites in Babylon)

38. Read Ezekiel 14:23. The Sovereign Lord does nothing without cause.

39. Will *you* be judged and punished for all *your* sins? Yes No (Circle One) Why or why not?

Personal answer but if saved, should be something like this:

I will not be judged and punished for my sins because Jesus accepted the judgment and punishment for my sins. Although I still sin, I do not enjoy sinning and agree with God about my wrongdoing. I seek God's help and turn away from my sins.

Read Ezekiel 33:11 and answer questions 40-41:

Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?' Ezekiel 33:11 (Also read Lamentations 3:32-33)

40. Does God take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? Yes **No** (Circle One)

41. What does God want for the wicked?

God wants the wicked to turn from their ways and live.

Read Ezekiel 36:33-36 and answer questions 42-43:

"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. ³⁴ The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. ³⁵ They will say, "This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited." ³⁶ Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the LORD have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.' Ezekiel 36:33-36

42. Will God resettle the destroyed towns and desolate land (vs. 33-34)? **Yes** No (Circle One)

43. With God's blessings on Israel's towns and land, what will the nations know (v. 36)?

The nations will know that the LORD rebuilt the towns and replanted the land.

Lesson 4: God Is Sovereign (Day Four) Responsibility for thoughts and actions

Scripture Reference in Lesson:

"Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'" Jeremiah 18:11

Read Jeremiah 18:5-6 and answer questions 44-46:

Then the word of the LORD came to me. ⁶ He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel." Jeremiah 18:5-6

44. Who did God call to declare or proclaim His message (v. 5)?

Jeremiah

45. How does God help the people understand the meaning of His words (v. 6)?

God explains His meaning in terms of everyday people and things.

46. What was God's message to Israel and how do His words speak to us today?

God has the right to mold Israel and today, He has the right to mold us.

Read Jeremiah 18:7-10 and answer questions 47-48:

If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, ⁸ and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. ⁹ And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, ¹⁰ and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. Jeremiah 18:7-10

47. Name one reason God will change His mind about sending *disaster* He has planned (vs.7-8).

If the nation God warned repents of its evil, then God will relent and not inflict on it the disaster He had planned.

48. What is one reason God will reconsider the *good* He had intended or planned (vs. 9-10)?

If the nation does evil in God's sight and does not obey Him, then He will reconsider the good He had intended to do for it.

Definition: In election, God determines to bring about His will by His plans and choices. The word election means to choose for oneself. The objects of divine selection are the elect ones. God's overarching plan is to bring salvation to His people and His world. See Ephesians 1:4-14.

Scripture References in Lesson:

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. Ephesians 1:4-6

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.¹⁷ For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. Romans 9:14-18

Lesson 4: God Is Sovereign (Day Five) God is always Right

Read Romans 9:19-21 and answer questions 49-50:

One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?"²⁰ But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use? Romans 9:19-21

49. Do we have the right to talk back to God and accuse Him (vs. 20-21)? Yes **No** (Circle One)?

50. Does God have the right to make people in anyway He chooses (v. 21)? **Yes** No (Circle One)

51. Share any difficulty or challenge you are going through now? How might we pray for you?

Personal Answer. Bible Minister, please encourage your learner and pray for him or her.

Read Exodus 6:1 and answer questions 52-53:

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country." Exodus 6:1

52. What five words does God use twice in this verse to describe His sovereign power?

Because of my mighty hand.

53. How did Pharaoh's choice *not* to release the Hebrews affect God's plan to free His people?

It did not change God's plan to free His people. He still freed them but through different means such as the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea.

Read Exodus 7:3-5 and answer questions 54-56:

But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, ⁴ he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites.⁵ And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it." Exodus 7:3-5

Definition: In biblical language, the heart is the center of one's mind and personality. A soft heart is open to God. A hard heart is not. It lacks faith and godly wisdom. Sin and especially unrepentant (no change) sin causes hearts to harden.

54. What does God say He will do to Pharaoh's heart (v.3)?

Harden it.

55. After the LORD hardens Pharaoh's heart, will he listen to Moses (v. 4)? (Yes **No** Circle One)

56. Through the judgments God brings upon Egypt, what will they come to know (v. 5)?

God is the LORD. Or the LORD is the one, true living God.

Scripture Reference in Lesson:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Read Deuteronomy 30:19 and Joshua 24:15 and answer questions 57-59:

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. Deuteronomy 30:19

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

57. Write the meaning of these verses in your own words:

People have the right to choose to serve God and be blessed or to choose to serve idols (or Satan) and be cursed.

58. Did the Israelites have the choice to choose who they would serve? **Yes** No (Circle One)

59. Do you have a choice who you will serve? **Yes** No (Circle One)

Scripture References in Lesson:

For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. Jude 1:4

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” Matthew 11:27

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them. John 3:36
for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:13*

60. How will understanding God is sovereign and yet *you* are still responsible for *your* choices and actions make a difference in your life?

Personal Answer. For me, Kathleen, I will take my choices and actions more seriously. They have eternal consequences. However, as I am careful to follow Jesus each day, I am at peace and secure knowing God is directing my life and will make sure I overcome adversity. I will be victorious in my sovereign Lord.

Personal Application:

61. Memorize Habakkuk 3:19 and write it without looking at the verse or notes:

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

-End Answers to Lesson Four-

Next Lesson 5: Who is God? God is Holy

Rev 2/6/2018

