

Getting to Know God Again

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Week 2 – Our God is Sovereign

Introduction:

The Sovereignty of God = a very controversial subject

Key Question: *How can a God who is both loving and sovereign allow such difficulty to come upon the whole earth?*

Two Bad Versions of Christianity:

- The Anti-Sovereignty View (Word-Faith theology)
God is obligated to do whatever humans demand, as long as we use the right combination of words and faith.
- The Extreme-Sovereignty View (Fatalist theology)
God controls in such a way that there is no reason to pray, no reason to share the gospel, no reason to do anything except out of the sheer obligation of a puppet being controlled by strings.

Sovereign = having supreme rank, power or authority

Sovereignty is most notably about God's rulership of _____

Things God cannot do: disown Himself (2 Tim. 2:13), lie (Num. 23:19, Heb. 6:18), be tempted by evil (James 1:13), remember the sins of His children (Heb. 8:12), tempt anyone (James 1:13), change (James 1:7), take back His word (Psalm 89:34).

When We Ask WHY: Five Assumptions...

1. There are objective VALUES in life
2. There is ORDER in the universe
3. Humans are SUPREMELY important
4. Life really is WORTH living
5. We are CAPABLE of finding and profiting from answers

The Purpose of Life: To know God and enjoy Him forever

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. Jesus in **John 10:10**

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS, FAMILIES OR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. We know that suffering is an unavoidable consequence of the fall of creation into sin. However, many would say that this idea is of little help in the midst of severe trials. Have you found that to be the case personally? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. For those in the group that are familiar with some of the Biblical story, what are some other famous "suffering stories" you are aware of in Scripture and have any of them helped you in the midst of hardship? Explain...
3. We know that some suffering comes into our lives through little or no fault of our own (Joseph, Job, Ruth, etc.) while other trials are consequences of our own choices (Abraham, David, etc.)

Is it more difficult for you to trust in God's compassion for you when you've brought something upon yourself as opposed to when it isn't your fault? If so, why do you think this dichotomy exists? If not, why not? Discuss...

4. Thinking through the five assumptions mentioned in the weekend message, are there any that you would take issue with and if so, why...?
 - There are objective values of good and evil in the universe
 - The universe is logical and orderly in some way
 - Human beings are of supreme importance in creation
 - Life is fundamentally worth living
 - It is possible to discover answers that will help us live with hope
5. Share a promise or passage of Scripture with the group that is particularly precious to you – something that has helped you persevere through hard times. In sharing, be honest. If your experience with the Bible has NOT brought much hope to you at this point in your journey, feel free to share that as well...

Promptings:

6. Conclude your Life Group time by getting real. If you are willing, briefly share at least one thing you are suffering with right now...and ask for prayer from the group. The problem could be spiritual, emotional, mental, physical, relational, etc. No judgment allowed...only confidentiality, safety and prayer.