

SESSION 9

GOD IS SOVEREIGN (A)

Lesson Plan



RECOMMENDED READING
Chapter 10 “God Is Sovereign”

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Nothing will change your life more quickly and dramatically than having a personal encounter with the living God. As His magnificent character becomes ever more real to you, your life will be changed forever.

- ❓ What comes to mind when you hear the word “sovereign”?

Webster defines the word as “having supreme rank, power, or authority; preeminent; being above all others in character, importance, excellence, etc.”

- ❓ What word do you think most people would use to describe a situation where all of the circumstances just seem to fall into place?

Possible answers include luck, chance, coincidence, fate, destiny, providence.

Today’s lesson is about the sovereignty of God. Society tends to explain away the sovereignty of God with words like fate, luck, and chance. However, God *is* the Ruler over all things. The concept of God’s sovereignty is often difficult to grasp. Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to teach us about this attribute.

Lead the group in prayer.

VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT:
GOD IS SOVEREIGN (18 MINUTES)

The cue graphic on the videotape is “Lesson 5” (the video segments are divided by attributes).

Let’s turn to page 28 in your Study Guide and follow along as Dr. Bright teaches us about the sovereignty of God.

GROUP DISCUSSION (21 MINUTES)

- ❓ What thought or idea expressed by Dr. Bright was new to you?
- ❓ Was there anything in this session that you found to be comforting? Why or why not?
- ❓ What do people mean when they say that Jesus Christ is their Savior and Lord?
- ❓ What do you think most Christians are thinking when they refer to the lordship of Christ?
- ❓ Why do Christians often have difficulty allowing Jesus to be Lord of their lives?
- ❓ Bill Bright asked the question, “Are you willing to say to God, ‘Use my life to further Your master plan?’” How do you feel about that, and what is your response?

I would like to draw your attention to the booklet *GOD: Seeking Him Wholeheartedly*. Pages 29–31 are about watching God work in our lives. As we consider the fact that God is sovereign, the questions listed on page 31 can help us to recognize God’s involvement in our lives. Throughout this next week, read this section again and use the questions every day to identify how God is at work in your life, noting His goodness and provision.

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION 9
GOD IS SOVEREIGN (A)
Video Outline



1. God is the sovereign Ruler of the universe.
(Daniel 2:21; 4:35)
2. God sovereignly works through His laws of nature.
(Job 37:6–13)
3. God is sovereignly fulfilling His eternal master plan.
(Isaiah 46:10)
4. God sovereignly directs people, circumstances, and events.
(Isaiah 45:7; Proverbs 19:21)
5. God sovereignly uses bad things for good purposes.
(Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20)

*Because God is sovereign,
I will joyfully submit to His will.*

RECOMMENDED READING
GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 10 “God Is Sovereign”

SESSION 10

GOD IS SOVEREIGN (B)

Lesson Plan



RECOMMENDED READING
Chapter 11 “God Directs Our Lives”

REVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Lead the group in prayer.

In this session we’re going to be continuing our discussion of how God’s sovereignty affects us.

- ❓ What questions have been going through your mind as we’ve been engaged in this topic?
- ❓ Why do you think it is so hard for many people to accept a sovereign God?

BIBLE STUDY (20 MINUTES)

Let’s turn to the Bible Study on page 29 in your Study Guide and consider several biblical examples of God’s sovereignty to see what we can learn from them.

VIDEO ILLUSTRATION SEGMENT: *SUSTAINER OF LIFE* (7 MINUTES)

LIFE APPLICATION (12 MINUTES)

- ❓ What thoughts or feelings are you experiencing right now as a result of watching this video?
- ❓ In his book Bill Bright writes:

Some say that if you have enough faith in God, or if you repeat the name of Jesus, or quote a formula or phrase of Scripture verses, then you will get all your prayers answered. However, we cannot force God to do things our way. Sometimes in His wisdom and sovereign plan, His answer to our prayers is “no” or “wait.” It is our job to trust, believe, and obey, not to demand.

What is your reaction to this?

- ❓ God is either sovereign or He is not. What are the ramifications for our lives if He is not?
- ❓ What is the most important thing you have learned throughout these sessions about God’s sovereignty?

Once again our Life Application steps call for a great deal of personal reflection. I want to encourage you to take the time before we meet again to memorize the Scripture passages and work through the remaining sections and questions found on pages 31 and 32.

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION 10

GOD IS SOVEREIGN (B)

Bible Study



1. God is a king-maker.

Read Daniel 2:37,38.

a. What did God do for Nebuchadnezzar?

2. God is a king-breaker.

Read Daniel 4:4–37.

a. Why did God give Nebuchadnezzar this dream?

b. What triggered the fulfillment of the dream?

c. What was Nebuchadnezzar's view of God after he was humbled?

3. God deserves uncompromised allegiance.

Read Daniel 3.

a. How do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego demonstrate their belief in God's sovereignty?

b. What good came out of this bad situation?

c. What would you have done in this situation?

4. God uses adversity and injustice as stepping stones for the completion of His will for our lives.

Read Genesis 37.

a. Why did Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery?

Read Genesis 39.

b. Why did Potiphar have Joseph put in prison?

Read Genesis 50:15–21.

c. What was Joseph's conclusion about all the wrongs that had been done to him throughout his life?

d. What can we learn from the lives of Daniel and Joseph about submitting to earthly authority while remaining faithful to God?

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GOD IS SOVEREIGN (B)

Life Application



WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART

Memorize the following statement and verses. As you encounter situations during this week where you need to remember that God is in control, claim these promises by faith.

- Because God is sovereign, I will joyfully submit to His will.
- Jeremiah 10:23—“I know, Lord, that a person’s life is not his own. No one is able to plan his own course.”
- Romans 8:28—“God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.”

EXALT YOUR GOD

Worship the sovereign Ruler of the universe with David’s song of praise. As you repeat his words, meditate on the character of God.

Praise be to You, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O 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, O Lord, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all... Now, our God, we give You thanks, and praise Your glorious name (1 Chronicles 29:10–13, NIV).

REFLECT HIS IMAGE

The proper response to our sovereign Creator is to commit ourselves completely to Him. Even the Son of God submitted to His Father. Jesus stated in John 8:28, “I do nothing on My own, but I speak what the Father taught Me... I always do those things that are pleasing to Him.” Yield your will to God today and determine to make submission to God a consistent part of your character.

Life Application (continued)

COUNT ON GOD

Does the fact that God is sovereign scare you? Why or why not?

When God is in control, we are not. That may invoke fear, but it should bring comfort. How much better that our all-powerful, all-knowing God has every circumstance under control than we who are imperfect and limited. Trust God today by placing your current situation into the hands of your capable and loving Father.

OBEY GOD

Our sovereign God has control over every breath and heartbeat in our life. How foolish it is for us not to obey Him. Ephesians 2:10 states, “We are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” We are a part of our sovereign God’s eternal plan! You can only further God’s purposes on earth and realize your own full potential by obeying Him. Pursue the “good things” He has for you to do today.

SHARE HIS MAJESTY

Do you know others who need to be reminded that God is in control? Comfort them with the fact that our sovereign Lord rules over every circumstance. Challenge them with the truth that God will accomplish His plans through them.

RECOMMENDED READING

GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 11 “God Directs Our Lives”

If you would like to download the entire GOD: Discover His Character Bible Study (which covers all the attributes) for free. You'll find it by visiting our Resources section:

<http://DiscoverGod.com/resources>

