



CORRESPONDING LEVEL WEB #s

Defenders: 041103



Detectives: 041103



Developers: 041103



GOD'S WORK – PAST AND PRESENT



MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible; Teacher Preparation Guide
(optional supplements: K4T songbook and PowerPoint files of lyrics)



SUGGESTED ORIGINAL KIDS 4 TRUTH SONG

"His Great Master Plan"

SUGGESTED HYMNS

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past!"; "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

OTHER SONG SUGGESTIONS

Older kids: "Draw Me Nearer," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

Younger kids: "He Lives!"; "Amazing Grace"



THE BASICS

PRIMARY TRUTH

God is in complete control of all things at all times.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Psalm 103:19

WHAT THIS DOCTRINE REVEALS ABOUT GOD

God is totally *sovereign*, which means He is always in control of all things – past, present, and future. Nobody could ever keep God from *accomplishing* (following through with, getting done, carrying out) all His perfect will. God's sovereignty is a great comfort to Christians who trust in Him. But for those who do not know Him, God's sovereignty ought to be a cause for real fear. Real believers can be assured and thankful that nothing can stop God from working out all things to the praise of the glory of His grace.

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES – By God's grace...

- The child will learn what is meant by the word *sovereignty*.
- The child will understand the biblical teaching of God's sovereignty.
- The child will gain a further understanding of God's *providence*.

ATTITUDE OBJECTIVES – By God's grace...

- The Christian child will be able to rest in assurance of God's absolute control over all Creation.
- The unsaved child will grow fearful of God's sovereignty.
- In humble faith, that unsaved child will submit himself to God's plans and purposes for his life.



PRAYER



TEACHING PHASE – INTRO

(about 5 minutes)



OPENER*

Q. Is God always in control of everything that happens?

A. Yes. God is in complete and ultimate control of everything that happens.

Psalm 103:19 – The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.



DISCUSSION

Has there ever been a time in your life when it seemed like God was not in control? How did you respond?

COMMENTARY

The Bible teaches that God is SOVEREIGN. You might hear preachers and teachers talk about the “sovereignty of God.” What do they mean by that? It simply means that God is in control!

BIG CHRISTIAN WORD

Sovereignty (SOV-ren-tee) – This word “sovereignty” describes God’s reign. He is the highest and greatest King with authority higher and greater than any other ruler. “Sovereign” describes God’s ultimate right and absolute power to do whatever He wants with what is rightfully His to govern – everything! God is totally sovereign, which means He is in complete control over all things at all times.

As the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the one true God of the Bible has the sovereign right and ability to do whatever He wants, whenever He wants to. Since everything belongs to God, God’s control is unlimited. He is King!

*NOTE: In the intro, we want to recap the primary truth and set the stage to use the primary truth to point the learners back to God.



INSTRUCTION & REINFORCEMENT

(about 10-20 minutes)

COMMENTARY

God’s sovereignty and God’s providence go hand-in-hand. You can’t have one without the other! We learned that God’s providence is His active upholding of all things to accomplish all His perfect will. God is actively involved in all things – including your life – right now!

There are two parts to God’s providence – *sustaining* and *controlling*.

Sustaining – keeping things going, or upholding things

Controlling – governing things, or causing things to work for a specific plan or purpose

God works in ways far beyond our understanding to bring about His good plans. He works in things, through things, and with things. God even factors in the things that totally rebel against His plan and purposes. We cannot understand how, but He always causes His plan to come to pass.



DISCUSSION

Have you ever tried to control a situation? How?

Have you ever tried to control *another person*? Did it work?

Could you ever control anything or anyone in a way that would come close to God’s sovereign control?



COMMENTARY

Guess who wants to take the control? SATAN wants control. The Devil is *not* sovereign like God, but he sure would *like* to be! He tries with all his might to stop God’s plans. He wants control. He wants to control you.



DISCUSSION

What does Satan want to control? Why does Satan want control?



BIBLE DRILL (#1) – Who rules? How does He rule? How long will He rule?

- Psalm 66:7

COMMENTARY

Someone might think proud thoughts like, “God can’t stop me from doing this or that.” But the truth is, **He can**. And no matter what you do – God’s plans stand sure. You cannot mess up God’s ultimate plans! But you can *align* yourself with them (arrange your own plans to line up with God’s, submit to God’s plans) so that your life will be as useful and joyful as possible!

Did you know that God works in ways far beyond our understanding as He governs all things according to His will? One of the reasons this is impossible for us to understand is that every day, people are making choices based on their own preferences. Some do right; some do wrong. Some do good; others do bad. One very clear picture of this is with the biblical prophet Jonah.

Jonah made a sinful choice to disobey God. But God, through His wonderful grace, led Jonah to a point of repentance. Jonah finally fulfilled God’s purposes for him to warn the Ninevites. God’s eternal will is not limited by our momentary sinful choices.



DISCUSSION

Can anyone or anything *alter* or *hinder* (change or mess up, slow down) God’s plans? Why, or why not? If God were not able to keep everything under His control, would He really be the one true God, the One Who describes Himself in the Bible? Why, or why not?

COMMENTARY

Someone might ask: “If God has promised to fulfill all His plans, then why should we pray? Why did Jesus pray? How can praying according to God’s plan be a blessing for us and glorifying to God?”



BIBLE DRILL (#2) – Some people might think it is useless to pray, especially if God already has everything under control. Look up these verses and see God’s attitude toward prayer. Answer this question: Why should we pray?

- Luke 10:2
- James 4:2
- Matthew 21:22



(Now might be a good time to draw from the curriculum a few Q&A on the topics of whether God has supreme control, “chance”/“luck” vs. sovereign providence, whether or not (and to what extent) sinners really have a “free” will, and/or how we should respond to God’s decisions and our responsibilities.)



(Here would be a great place to insert what you learned from your Teacher Truth Study.)



GETTING BACK TO GOD*

{Recap **WHAT THIS DOCTRINE REVEALS ABOUT GOD:** God is totally *sovereign*, which means He is always in control of all things – past, present, and future. Nobody could ever keep God from *accomplishing* (following through with, getting done, carrying out) all His perfect will. God’s sovereignty is a great comfort to Christians who trust in Him. But for those who do not know Him, God’s sovereignty ought to be a cause for real fear. Real believers can be assured and thankful that nothing can stop God from working out all things to the praise of the glory of His grace.}

Who else can claim to be “sovereign” in the ultimate sense of always being in complete control of all things? Not you or I! Not even the highest of earthly rulers can claim they are in complete control of all things all the time. They cannot control elections. They cannot control the weather. They cannot turn people’s hearts.

The gods and idols invented by mankind have never been able to prove they can even see what’s going on in the world or hear prayer requests!

Who alone can claim to be truly sovereign? Only God. The God of the Bible has revealed Himself in His Word and worked in obvious ways in the lives of people throughout history since the beginning of time. He has *demonstrated* (shown in obvious, public ways) again and again that He is all-wise, all-powerful, and always everywhere at once. He is in absolute control, even when we can’t see or understand the “big picture” of all that He’s getting done.

*NOTE: Teachers, please remember that this section should include the fruit of your Teacher Truth Study and one or two personal illustrations or anecdotes from the “Personalize It!” activity in the Teacher Preparation Phase.



APPLICATION & ASSESSMENT

“INTERNALIZE IT!” from Teacher Preparation Phase

(about 5-10 minutes)

You might begin this section with:

“Boys and girls, as I’ve been preparing for this TruthTime Lesson, here’s what God has been showing me....”

You might continue by saying:

“Because of what God is teaching me, here’s what is going to be different in my life during this next week....”

You might conclude with something like this:

“Finally, here’s what God has taught me about Himself through these truths....”



DISCUSSION TIME QUESTIONS

- What are some good things that have happened to you because of the actions of other people?
- Were those good things really, ultimately from them?
- How might believing that all good things come ultimately from God help you be even more thankful, more often?
- Why is the truth of God’s sovereignty an anchor for our faith?
- How can knowing and believing that God is in control of all things inspire and motivate you to share the Gospel all over the world?



APPENDICES OR “IF TIME”

(optional)

NONE SUGGESTED AT THIS TIME