

Unit 3, Session 6: God Controls Everything

Big Picture Question: Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.

Memory Verse: Psalm 135:5-6 – I know that the Lord is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.

Christ Connection: Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.

Bible Passage: Job

Find the passages together in your Bibles and read through them together. You could also read the paraphrase of all these passages below in blue. For younger kids, you may want to just read the bolded portions.

Suffering is a guaranteed part of the human experience, and the Bible has much wisdom to offer on this. While experiencing incredible physical and emotional pain, Job also endures the harsh reasoning of insensitive friends and apparent silence from God. Job's natural response mirrors our own as he consistently asks "Why?" (3:20-6; 7:20-1; 9-10:7; 13:24, etc.). We often do the same as hardships come our way, thinking that if we just knew the reason, we could somehow manage the pain better. If only we had the chance to determine whether our own suffering was just, then we might approve of God's work in us through painful means (40:7-9). However, if we are honest with ourselves, there is probably little that would change for the better in our hearts if we knew the reason behind our suffering.

Job's story is nothing uncommon to mankind, but his response to the suffering he experiences provides a helpful example. Job lays everything before the Lord. He never receives a "because" for his "why," but he does not abandon faith in God. We often take God's silence as indifference, and some use this as circumstantial evidence against God's sovereignty. However, when God does finally respond to Job's indictment (38-41), Job no longer requires a reason for his pain. Instead of a "why," Job is satisfied by a "who" (42:1-6). God himself is enough, and Job's understanding of God moves from merely transactional to deeply relational. This is the thrust of the book: if nothing else comes from all that we suffer but knowing God better, that is enough. It is okay to be in pain and to express that, especially to God. When others are in pain, it is not our job to offer explanation but comfort. God does not owe us a why, but we can trust that he is good, even in our suffering, because he offers us himself—in all his glory and splendor—as our sovereign savior and Lord (John 16:33). And he is enough.

Job (JOHB) was a wealthy man who **loved God and wanted to follow God's plan.** Job was honest. He feared God and turned away from evil. **One day, God's enemy, Satan, went to God.** God told Satan, "No one else on earth is like Job."

"Job only follows You because You protect him and bless him," Satan said. "If You take away everything Job has, he won't follow You anymore."

So God gave Satan permission to take away everything Job had, but Satan was not allowed to hurt Job. Satan sent men to steal Job's animals. He caused Job's children to die. In one day, Job lost everything. Job was very sad, but he still followed God.

Satan came to God again. He said, "If Job gets sick, he will not praise You anymore." So **God gave Satan permission to make Job sick, but God did not let Satan kill Job.** Satan covered Job's skin with painful sores.

"Do you still have faith in God?" Job's wife asked. "Curse God and die!"

"That's foolish," Job said. "How can we accept good things from God and not trouble?"

Then **three of Job's friends visited Job.** Their names were Eliphaz (EL if faz), Bildad (BIL dad), and Zophar (ZOH fahr). **They said, "Job, if you do what is right and stop sinning, God will give you back everything you lost."**

"I haven't done anything wrong," Job said. Job wished he had someone to talk to God for him. He wanted answers; he didn't understand why he was suffering. Had God made a mistake?

Then a man named Elihu (ih LIGH hyoo) came to Job. "God is greater than man," Elihu **explained. "God always does what is right."**

Finally, God spoke to Job through a whirlwind. "Were you there when I made the earth?" God asked. "Are you the one who told the sea where to stop? Did you decide when the sun would rise or when snow would fall? **Did you put the stars in the sky? Can you tell the eagles when to fly in the sky?"**

Job could not completely understand God's plans, but he could trust God. God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. Job was sorry for doubting God. God gave Job back almost everything he had lost—and so much more.

If you or your child have questions about what it looks like to follow Jesus in salvation or baptism, Pastor Sam would love to talk with you! Please feel free to contact him at ssievers@lenexabaptist.com.