

Knowing God More

Lesson 1 - God is Sovereign

Exodus 34:5-6 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him (Moses) there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth..."

This week we will look at the first name(s) the Lord proclaimed to Moses:

➤ **the LORD, the LORD God**

Begin this study with prayer, asking the Lord to reveal Himself in His word that you might know Him more.

The Meaning

Lord is a familiar word, but what does it really mean?

Lord – Hebrew – **kýrios**; from a root word meaning (supremacy); it means supreme in authority.

Lord – Thayer's Greek Lexicon – he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding; master, lord; the possessor and disposer of a thing, the owner.

Lord – Dictionary definition - someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler.

1. There is a lot to that word “Lord”! Considering the definitions above, read Isaiah 45:5 below and take a minute to think about what this really means.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me...

2. Let's look deeper. One word you might have noticed in the definitions above is “supremacy”. Write a definition below.

3. Another word that is closely related to supremacy and also a part of the character of God is “sovereignty.” Write a definition for sovereign below.

What does scripture have to say?

1. Read the following Old Testament scriptures and write what you see in them of the supremacy and sovereignty of God.

a. Psalm 135:5-7

b. Jeremiah 32:27

c. Daniel 4:35

2. The New Testament also speaks of the supremacy and sovereignty of God. What do you find in the following verses?

a. Romans 11:36

b. Colossians 1:15-19

Manifestation of His Sovereignty

There are many examples in God's Word that show the manifestation of God's sovereignty, but we have chosen one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament for our study this week.

Daniel 3

1. In Daniel 3:1,4-6 what were the people commanded to worship?

2. What was the penalty given in verse 11 for not falling down and worshipping as commanded?

3. Read Daniel 3:12-26 and answer the following questions.

a. What was the accusation against Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego?

b. How do their words in verses 17 and 18 reveal their faith in the sovereignty of God?

c. Read Daniel 3:19-25 and share what you see of the manifestation of the power of the Lord, and His supremacy.

d. When Nebuchadnezzar saw what happened, we see a change in him. Write the words he spoke in verses 26 and 29 then share what they reveal about him.

Mark 4:35-41

1. Read Mark 4:35-41 and write below the act of supremacy described.

2. When the disciples observed this act it changed their view of Jesus.

a. What was the attitude of the disciples before this happened?

b. What was their attitude after it happened? Include the words they spoke in verse 41.

The Effect of Understanding God's Character

Consider the two examples we just read. In Daniel we saw three men acting upon their understanding of the sovereignty of God and their faith in His supremacy. In Matthew we saw men acting without this understanding, but then saw the change as their eyes were opened.

1. What difference do you see in how these two groups of men acted in the face of life threatening danger?

2. What can you do to prepare so that your reaction to a situation is more like the men in Daniel?

3. Consider Job, who was described by God as a “blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil.” He suffered the loss of family, finances, and health. Read each of the following verses and share what you see in his attitude toward God in the midst of his suffering.
 - a. Job 1:20-21

 - b. Job 2:9-10

 - c. Job 13:15

 - d. Job 42:2

4. Read the following verses and share how they can encourage us as we walk through this world with so many things happening that we do not understand.
 - a. Daniel 2:20-22

 - b. John 19:10-11

5. How do you think your own understanding of the supremacy and sovereignty of God should affect the attitudes and choices in your own life?