

Our

Awesome

God

God Is Sovereign  
Lesson 1 of 6

Our Memory Verse

"...Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all." (1 Chronicles 29:11)



**What sorts of qualities make a good friend?**

Maybe you would say a good friend is:

Honest Fair Kind Thoughtful Funny  
Able to keep secrets Always available to listen to you

Maybe you already have a friend who has those qualities—I hope you do! Those qualities can be called “attributes” (a-truh-byoots). An attribute describes what someone is like. Try this: Take this little quiz and check off the attributes that describe you:

My Attributes!

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fun-loving    | <input type="checkbox"/> Careful    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kind          | <input type="checkbox"/> Funny      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheerful      | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Determined    | <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good listener | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good friend   | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative   |



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When people meet you, they don't see a list written on your forehead saying, "These are my attributes!" Attributes cannot be seen but as others get to know you better they will find out what you are like.

Did you know God has attributes? You and I can't see God's attributes but we learn about them in God's Word, the Bible. Everything in the Bible is true. In it you learn who God is and what He is like. Through His Word you can know Him. The more you know about Him, the more you will understand how great He is. You'll want to worship Him and honor Him as the one and only God, who is above all. God has many, many attributes but in this lesson series we will talk about just six of them.

The first attribute is *sovereign*. The last part of the word, *reign*, means to be in charge and have the power to rule over others. The one who reigns makes decisions. The word *reign* may make you think of a king and kingdom. That is the right idea! Others who probably "reign" over you in your life right now are parents or guardians, teachers and law enforcement officials. God has put them in charge; therefore, they "reign"!

In a far greater way God reigns over everyone and everything all the time. The first part of *sovereign* is *sove*, which means "over all." God is the highest ruler over all. No one is over God. No one tells Him what to do. God is "in charge" all the time! He never sleeps or goes on vacation.

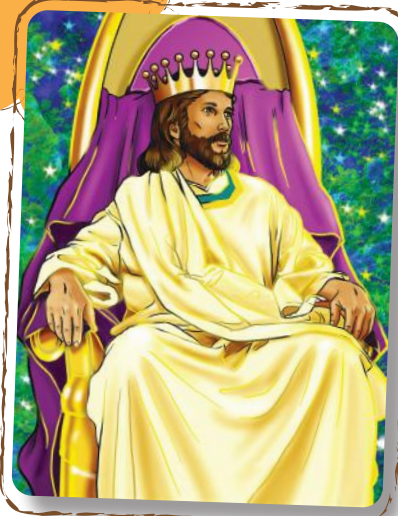
What gives God the right to be in charge? God is in charge because He is the Creator.

Our awesome God created you and the whole world. The Bible says, "Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us,

and we are his..." (Psalm 100:3).

Of all the things God created, you are most special to Him. God loves you and He knows all about you. He knows what you think and feel. He knows what you like and don't like. He even knows when you sin and do wrong. The Bible says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive [lie] to ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). All of us have sinned against God. Sin is doing things like saying bad words or using God's name in a wrong way. Our awesome God is holy (perfect). He says that sin must be punished and the punishment for sin is being away from Him forever.

Because God is the highest ruler and loves you, He made a way for your sin to be forgiven. The Bible says, "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God sent His perfect Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to take the punishment for



your sin! Jesus came to Earth and willingly bled and died on a cross for you. He was taken off the cross and buried but on the third day He rose again! After several days Jesus went back to Heaven, where He is alive today, ruling over all. Because Jesus died for your sin and rose again, you can choose to believe in Him and be forgiven. Then someday you will live in Heaven with our awesome God, who created you.



Because God is the Creator, He is in charge. He is one God but the Bible tells us He is three persons. We sometimes call our one God in three persons the *Trinity*.

He is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—three persons in one. All three persons of the Trinity have the same attributes because they are one God. God the Father is sovereign, God the Son is sovereign and God the Holy Spirit is sovereign.



Some people may ask, "How long will God reign and be the highest ruler?" The Bible gives the answer. "The LORD will reign forever and ever" (Exodus 15:18). God has always been in control and He always will be. No problem is too great for God.

If you have believed in the Lord Jesus as your Savior from sin, you can trust Him no matter what happens. If your dad or mom loses his or her job, you can remember God is sovereign and in control of all things. If someone you love gets sick or dies, you can remember God is sovereign. Maybe you watch the news and see fighting and war and wonder if you will be safe. You may never understand why God allows certain things to happen to you but you can trust

Him to help you through the difficult times. The Bible says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Your sovereign

God wants you to trust Him. When you find yourself facing a problem you don't understand, you can do three things: think, thank and ask. First, stop and *think*, *God is in control*. Next, *thank* Him for being sovereign and the highest ruler. Last, *ask* God to help you trust Him as you face that difficult problem. Because the sovereign God is in control, you can trust Him no matter what happens.

No problem is too great for God. Next time you face a difficult situation, remember to *think*, *thank* and *ask*. God will give you peace as you put your trust in Him!

In this lesson you learned God is sovereign. He is the highest ruler, who controls all things. You can trust God and see His control in your life; you can trust Him in all things.

If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, you can trust God in all things—no matter what happens. The next time you face a difficult problem, will you stop and remember 1 Chronicles 29:11? Will you remember to think, thank and ask? Stop and *think*, *God is in control*; *thank* Him for being sovereign and *ask* Him to help you


**THINK!**


**THANK!**


**ASK!**


## How to be a child in God's family

—clip & keep bookmark—

 The one true God has great power. God made the world. He made you. He loves you very much! God is perfect. He wants you to live with Him in Heaven.

 But there is a big problem. You were born wanting to do wrong things called sin. Things like telling lies or being mean make God unhappy. The Bible says, "For all have sinned..." (Romans 3:23). God has to punish sin. The punishment is to be away from God forever.

 God made a way to forgive your sin. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to Earth as a baby. Jesus grew to be a man. He never sinned. But God punished Jesus for your sin! Jesus was nailed to a cross. He bled and died. This was God's plan.

 Jesus died on the cross and was buried. On the third day God brought Jesus back to life. The Bible says, "...Christ died for our sins...he was raised on the third day..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).



trust Him as you face your difficult situation. The sovereign God is in control of all things. He will give you great peace when you trust Him!

The first step in learning to trust God is believing in Jesus, God the Son, as your Savior. The Bible says, "...Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through

his name" (Acts 10:43). This verse is talking about you! If you are willing to admit (agree with God about) your sins, turn from them and tell God you believe (trust completely) in Jesus, who died and rose again for you, God will forgive you. He will change you on the inside so you can live to please Him here on Earth and someday join Him in Heaven. Would you like to believe in Jesus today? If you do, read the bookmark in this lesson. Then tell us about it on the answer page!

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## Discovering Treasure

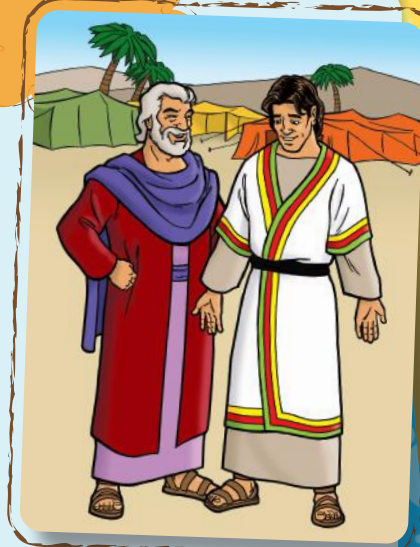


Do you ever wonder, *Where is God when I'm having a bad day? Is He there?* The answer is yes! Our sovereign God is there and He is with you even when things are hard.

Joseph could have wondered if God had left him. His older brothers didn't like him and they sold him into slavery. How terrible! Then he was thrown into prison for something he didn't do. But through all that Joseph remembered his sovereign God was with him.

But did he get out of prison? What about those brothers? Read it out of God's Word to find out!

- Read Genesis 41:1-16—Why did Pharaoh send for Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_



### Because of what Jesus did, you can be forgiven!

Agree with God that you have sinned. God says, "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out..." (Acts 3:19). Be sorry for the wrong you have said, thought and done. Be willing to go God's way rather than your own.

Believe (trust completely) that Jesus died for you and that He removed the barrier of sin between you and God. The Bible says, "...Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..." (Acts 16:31). God will save (rescue) you from the punishment you deserve.

Do you believe in Jesus to save you? If so, you can talk to God and tell Him something like this: "Dear God, I have sinned and I'm sorry. Thank You for sending Your Son to die for me. Thank You that He rose again. Please give me strength to live the way You want me to live. In Jesus' name. Amen."

If you just believed in Jesus to save you from sin, write today's date here so you will always remember.

- Read Genesis 41:17-32—What message was God sending Pharaoh and Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_
- Read Genesis 41:33-45—What did Pharaoh do for Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_
- Genesis 42-44 describes what happened with Joseph's brothers. Read Genesis 45:4-11—What did Joseph say about the bad things that happened to him? \_\_\_\_\_
- Here's a challenge—Read Genesis 37 and 39-45 to get the whole story!



## From Outlaw to Outstanding

The police cruiser rumbled down the dirt road in a cloud of dust on its way to the Perkins' shack. The angry sheriff snarled, "I know old Aunt Coot makes whiskey at her place. She's not smart enough to hide it from me forever. When I find it, I'm throwin' that whole Perkins family in jail!" The sheriff hated the Perkins family, not just because they were breaking the law but because they were different from him. His skin was light and theirs was dark.

"Rosie Lee!" hissed young John Perkins. "Hide! Here comes the sheriff." Rosie Lee knew exactly what to do. She and John dove for the nearest cover—a clump of thick bushes. The two cousins peeked out from the leaves, watching the sheriff kick at rocks and bushes, hoping to uncover Aunt Coot's stash of whiskey. The longer

he searched, the madder he got. "It's gotta be here somewhere!" he growled as he kicked the dust. John and Rosie Lee smothered their giggles with both hands. "That stupid man is standin' right on top of the stash!" squealed John in delight. The sheriff had been outsmarted again!

Four-year-old John's days were filled with hard work. "Wake up, John," called Grandma each morning. "That cotton ain't





gonna pick itself." After a small breakfast of gravy and biscuits, John headed to the fields to pick cotton with his family. He was only four but everyone was expected to help. The Perkins family did not own the cotton fields. The landowner paid them according to how much cotton they picked each day. Usually the pay was much less than it should have been so they felt cheated. Like most other African American people in New Hebron, John learned to hate the white landowners.

The Perkins family was considered outlaws in their small Mississippi town of New Hebron. They were tough and always ready for a fight. But Grandma was tender

with John and always ready to give him a hug. She had cared for him since his mother died when he was only seven months old. His father, Jap, had left John and his older brother, Clyde, to be raised by Grandma and her family. Four-year-old John did not remember his mama and hardly ever saw his daddy. *Someday I'll go live with my daddy*, dreamed John. *Someday*.

Will John be able to go live with his father one day? Will the sheriff throw the Perkins family in jail? You'll find out more in your next lesson.

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**Wanna**

**Know?**

***Why does God allow bad things to happen to Christians?***

Grown-ups often ask this question too.

God created all things good. Bad things are a result of sin. Every person is now born with a sinful heart. Someday God will remake this world. There will be a new Heaven and Earth. Then there will be no more bad things.

Meanwhile, God has not promised there will be no bad things in the Christian's life. He has promised that He will work *all things together* for good for the Christian (Romans 8:28). Here are some of the things God will do through bad things or what we call *suffering*:

- 1.** God may use suffering to help your faith grow. You need to remember God's promises during bad things and keep on trusting Him.
- 2.** God may use suffering to show you His love and kindness and cause others to trust Him. Remember Joseph, who was sold by his brothers and became a slave in Egypt? At the end of the story Joseph told his brothers, "You meant it for evil but God meant it for good."
- 3.** God may want you to take action. If you are having trouble, remember God is there to help you. Read His Word, the Bible, and talk to Him about your trouble. Ask Him to show you an adult you can trust to ask for help too.

Look for God's love and kindness during bad times and find opportunities to honor Him.

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# Think About It!

## Our Awesome God Lesson 1

Fill in the blanks with the words *given in this lesson*.

1. You and I can't \_\_\_\_\_ God's attributes but we can \_\_\_\_\_ about them in \_\_\_\_\_, the Bible.
2. The last part of the word *reign* means to be in charge and have the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In a far greater way, \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ all the time.
4. God is in charge because He is the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. How long does the Bible say God will \_\_\_\_\_ and be the highest ruler (Exodus 15:18)? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Next time you face a problem, remember to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. God will give you peace as you put your \_\_\_\_\_ in Him!

Write out your memory verse (I Chronicles 29:11): \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you believed in Jesus as your Savior? (Circle one.)

Yes (When? \_\_\_\_\_)    No

**Tell us...** In what situation might you need to *stop* and *think* about the fact that God is in control?



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