

Sunday School Lesson: God Is Omnipotent and Sovereign

Basic Theology Series — Attributes of God

Length: 30 minutes

Class Format: Family Style, mixed adults and children

Main Idea: God has all power, and He rules over all things with perfect wisdom, goodness, and authority.

1. Opening Illustration: The King and the Strong Man

“What is the difference between someone who is very strong and someone who is in charge?”

A strong man may be able to lift a heavy object, but that does not mean he has the right to command a kingdom. A king may have authority, but if he has no power, his commands may not be carried out. But God is both.

He is not merely powerful.

He is not merely in charge.

He is all-powerful and sovereign.

He has unlimited power, and He rules with unlimited authority.

2. Scripture

Jeremiah 32:17

“Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Scripture: Psalm 115:3

“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”

Genesis 50:20

Acts 2:23 “This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men...”

3. Key Definitions

God Is All-Powerful: This is called omnipotence. That means God has all power. He can do anything that is consistent with His holy nature and perfect will. God is able to do all His holy will. That last phrase matters: His holy will.

God cannot lie.

God cannot sin.

God cannot deny Himself.

God cannot stop being God.

That does not mean God lacks power. It means God is perfectly powerful and perfectly holy. His power is never separated from His character.

Scripture: Jeremiah 32:17

“Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.”

God’s power is seen in creation. He made everything. He did not need tools, supplies, permission, or help. He spoke, and creation obeyed.

God Is Sovereign: God’s sovereignty means He rules over all things as King. God is sovereign, meaning He has supreme authority and rules over all creation according to His perfect will. Sovereignty is not only about strength. It is about rule, authority, kingship, and control.

Scripture: Psalm 115:3

“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”

This does not mean God is careless or selfish. It means no one is above Him. No one can overrule Him. No one can force His hand. God is King over creation, history, nations, families, salvation, suffering, and even things we do not understand.

Another way of looking at Sovereignty is that nothing outside of God can make God act or not act.

4. The Nuanced Difference

God’s omnipotence means He has the power to do all His will.

God’s sovereignty means He has the authority and rule to accomplish His will.

Omnipotence answers the question: “Can God do it?”

Sovereignty answers the question: “Is God ruling over it?”

And the Bible’s answer to both is yes. God is not a weak king. God is not a powerful force without wisdom. God is the all-powerful King.

5. Family Discussion #1 — “Power and Authority”

“Can you think of someone who has power but not authority? Can you think of someone who has authority but limited power?”

Power without authority: *A very strong athlete, a superhero character, a bully, or someone who can do something but does not have the right to do it.*

Authority with limited power: *A teacher, parent, police officer, judge, or president. They have authority, but they are still limited. They get tired. They make mistakes. They cannot control everything.*

God is different from everyone else. He has perfect power and perfect authority. He is never too weak to act, and He has the authority to act

6. How These Attributes Work Together

God’s power and sovereignty are never in competition. They work together perfectly. Because God is all-powerful, He is able to accomplish His sovereign plan. Because God is sovereign, His power is never random, reckless, or out of control. God’s power is not like a storm that destroys without wisdom. God’s sovereignty is not like a cruel ruler who commands without goodness.

God is infinite, holy, good, all-powerful, and sovereign. That means His power is holy power. His sovereignty is good sovereignty. His rule is never evil, foolish, panicked, or weak.

This connects beautifully with the previous lessons.

Because God is infinite, His power has no limit.

Because God is holy, He is separate from His creation so He is sovereign over creation.

Because God is good, His sovereignty is never cruel and He does not abuse His power.

Because God is all-powerful, nothing can stop Him.

Because God is sovereign, nothing is outside His rule.

7. Scripture Example: Joseph

Genesis 50:20

Joseph's brothers sinned against him. They sold him into slavery. Joseph suffered greatly. But years later, Joseph could look back and say that his brothers truly meant evil, but God was still working. This passage helps us avoid two mistakes.

First, we should not say evil is good. Joseph says plainly, "You meant evil."

Second, we should not say God was absent. Joseph also says, "God meant it for good."

That is sovereignty. God was powerful to work through painful circumstances, and He was sovereign to bring about His good purpose.

God did not lose control when Joseph was betrayed.

God did not lose control when Joseph was forgotten in prison.

God did not lose control during the famine.

God was ruling, even when Joseph could not see the whole picture.

8. Family Discussion

"Why is it comforting to know that God is both powerful and sovereign?"

9. The Greatest Display: The Cross

The clearest place we see God's power and sovereignty together is the cross of Jesus Christ. At first glance, the cross looked like defeat.

Jesus was betrayed.

Jesus was falsely accused.

Jesus was beaten.

Jesus was crucified.

But the Bible tells us this was not outside God's plan.

Acts 2:23 "This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men..."

This verse holds two truths together. The people who crucified Jesus were truly responsible for their sin. Yet God was sovereignly accomplishing His plan. The cross was not God losing control. The cross was God accomplishing salvation. And then the resurrection displayed God's power over sin, death, and the grave.

God's sovereignty planned redemption.

God's power accomplished redemption.

10. Family Discussion #2 — “When Life Feels Out of Control”

“What is one situation where people may feel like life is out of control? How does knowing God is powerful and sovereign help us trust Him?”

For younger children: “What is something that feels scary or too big for you? How does it help to remember that God is bigger?”

Trusting God’s sovereignty does not mean we always understand what God is doing. It means we know who God is.

We know He is powerful.

We know He is in charge.

We know He is holy.

We know He is good.

We know He keeps His promises.

11. Sovereignty Does Not Excuse Sin

God’s sovereignty does not mean people are not responsible for their choices. In Genesis, Joseph’s brothers were responsible for their evil. In Acts, those who crucified Jesus were responsible for their lawless actions. God is sovereign over human choices, but humans are still morally responsible for their choices. We may not be able to explain every mystery of how that works, but Scripture teaches both.

God rules over all things.

People are responsible for their actions.

God never sins.

God is never the author of evil.

God can use even evil actions to accomplish His good purposes.

12. Application: How Should We Live?

Because God is all-powerful and sovereign, we should respond in several ways.

We worship Him: God is not small. God is not weak. God is not one option among many. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

We trust Him: When life is confusing, we can trust that God is not confused.

We pray boldly: Because God is all-powerful, no prayer request is too big for Him.

We obey Him: Because God is sovereign, His commands are not suggestions. He is King.

We rest in Him: Because God rules over all things, we do not have to carry the weight of the universe on our shoulders.

15. Take-Home Family Discussion

Families can discuss some of these during the week:

Where in the Bible do we see God’s power?

Where in the Bible do we see God ruling over events?

What is something in our family that we need to trust God with?

How should we pray differently if we truly believe God is all-powerful?

How should we obey differently if we truly believe God is King?