

# CAN OF WORMS

“Is God In Control?”

## Part 1 (5-7 minutes)

In this series we will be tackling hard questions about God and answering them in small group. Disclaimer, In our faith there will be times of doubt, there will be times when we question God character. But it's important to know that there is a God who is near and He is not afraid of our questions.

This week we will be looking at the question. “Is God In Control?”

### Illustration

( Tell a story of feeling like you need to be in control. I'm probably talking about back seat drivers or the need to be in control on an airplane)

How many times have we heard this, “God is in control.”

### Main Verse :

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you , “says the Lord.” They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

## TENSION: Is God in Control?

It's important to know as we wrestle with this question what we mean by “control.” Is it that we never have an original thought? Is it that our steps are shaped by God? Is it that He will never let anything bad or hard happen to us? Is it that we are simply chess pieces to what God wants to do?

It's important to know that when it comes to God being in control that , by His love and compassion , He has given us free will. (You can't love someone without the option not to). So by control we mean is God ultimately “in charge” . Does He know what's going on not just in the world by in our world?

If He is then we can know that no pain or hurt is final, that He cares about what we are going through, that He sees things we cannot see. That we can trust Him with our lives.

If He is not in control then hurt and pain are meaningless, He can't care about what we were going through ,and it is hard to trust in Him.

So this is important to talk about.

## Prayer

### Group Time (10-15 minutes)

1. When someone says, "God is in control." What do you think "control" means?
2. Have you ever questioned whether or not God is in control?
3. If God is in control, what does that mean for us?
4. Can you tell a story of when you saw that God was in control?

### Part 2 (10-15 minutes)

When it comes to the question of Is God in control, Here is what you need to know.

#### Main Point: God Is Sovereign

What does it mean to be sovereign? Here are a couple of definitions. Sovereign - possessing supreme or ultimate power. (of a nation or its affairs) acting or done independently and without outside interference.

In other words, God is God. He is the ultimate authority. But what I love about God is that even with that authority, He still gives us free will. He gives us a choice to choose Him or not to choose Him. To love Him or not love Him, to worship or not worship Him. (These decisions have consequences but the ball is in our court) But He is still the ultimate authority in our lives.

And this is good news! Because in light of this there are a couple truths about God's sovereignty that we can hold on to.

#### Truth 1: God knows things we don't know.

**Ob**

**This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. I Corinthians 1:25**

**Ap**

**There are things in life that we can't know. That we can't figure out. Even things that we don't understand. We can trust that God knows things we don't know and we can trust Him with those things.**

**As people of faith, we can trust that even in hard circumstances, God knows more and is doing more than we can see.**

**(Elaborate more if you want to)**

**Truth 2: God works in ways we can't see.**

**Ob**

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the story of Joseph. Long story short Joseph is chosen by God to save His people. But Joseph faces a lot of things from being sold into slavery by his very own brothers, to being a servant, to being falsely accused, to being in prison, to being seen by the king, to being promoted by the king, to helping save an entire people group from a severe famine.

There are so many times when it didn't seem like God was in control or working in any way. But in all these things God was setting up purpose in Joseph's life. And we see this in Joseph's own words when he saves his very own family from famine.

Genesis 50:20

You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

So God sometimes works in ways that we cannot see.

**Ap**

We have to understand that because God is sovereign, sometimes he makes things happen, but **often times He allows things to happen**. It's easy to peg things on God that aren't actually Him at all. But the encouragement is that often times God is working in ways that we cannot see.

**Illustration**

**Tell a story of a hard time in your life that looking back you saw the Lord working behind the scenes.**

I don't know what situation you're walking through right now, but the encouragement is so many times the Lord uses hard situations to grow us. To shape us to become more like Him.

**Key: Look back at a time the Lord was working behind the scenes.**

If you can't see a time in your life, ask someone in your small group. We need to remember when God was working, even when we didn't see it at the time.

### Truth 3: God see's things that we don't see.

Ob

**John 3:16**

**“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

This is a very common verse that you probably know. But there is some important back story. See the Jews believed that Jesus came to physically save them from Roman rule. Literally lead a rebellion against the Romans to save them and allow them to establish their own Kingdom. But that was not why Jesus came, he came to establish a way to know God personally and a way to eternal life, an eternal kingdom. Why? Because He knew that we need eternal life and an eternal relationship with Him more than anything else.

Ap

So what does this mean for us? It means that in whatever we are going through , God sees what we don't see. Jesus said “your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.” So we can trust in Him.

### Illustration

So many times in life because of circumstances we don't believe God is in control. (Circumstances most likely are the number reason why we don't believe He is in control) (Have a rope with a small section taped) I have this rope, I want you to imagine that it goes on forever. And this small taped section represents our life here on earth. In this small section we ask if God is in control, we get frustrated when we don't see everything He is doing, we question His motives, and we can become so skeptical on whether God is in control. But the reality when Jesus came to earth, he made a way for us to know Him and walk with Him for the rest of eternity. (Show the rest of the rope) He sees things that we cannot see, He is doing things that we cannot see, He knows things that we cannot know, **He is control.**

(Kind of like this [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF\\_x8dsvb\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF_x8dsvb_4) )

Maybe tonight you have never put your trust in Him.

### Response

Salvation - those who have never received that love

Altars

Prayer

Practical response - write down a time in your life when you have seen God working behind the scenes( something like that )