

GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL/SOVEREIGN

- **Key Verse:** “I know that You can do all things; no plan of Yours can be thwarted.” Job 42:2
- **Teaching Passage:** Genesis 21
- **Supporting Texts:** Exodus 15:18, Psalm 9:7, Psalm 96:10, Isaiah 9:7, Psalm 47:8

TEACH: Sovereign

Introduce this week’s attribute by showing the 4 pictures. (*The four pictures are (1) the world, (2) rain, (3) a throne & (4) a crown*). Ask kids to guess what those 4 pictures have in common or what truth about God they could be pointing to. Hopefully with a little coaching (a king sits on a throne and wears crown when he rules, etc.) someone will come up with the word **reign** or **sovereign**. Explain that our truth for the morning is **SOVEREIGN** which means that *God rules or is in control or in charge of everything*.

Read the following verses: Exodus 15:18, Psalm 47:8, Job 42:2, Job 38:12, Job 38:35, Job 38:39. Then ask, “based on these verses is there anything that God does not rule over?”

Remind the group that God rules over everything from the smallest ant getting its food to tsunamis and thunderstorms to when and where babies will be born. God is in control of everything.

Introduce the story by asking someone to tell you a little bit about Abraham – who he is, what he’s known for in the Bible, etc. Talk briefly about how in Genesis 12 God chose a man named Abram and told him to leave his home and follow Him and Abram did. God promised to make him into a great nation and to give him land and to bless the world through him. God changed his name to Abraham and his wife’s name to Sarah and even though they were old and didn’t have any children God promised to make their descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky or the sand on the beach and they believed God by faith (belief in something they couldn’t see).

But, time passed, they were getting older and they still didn’t even have one child, let alone numerous descendants, so they decided to take the control away from God and come up with their own plan. Abraham took a second wife. Her name was Hagar. Hagar

had a son and they named him Ishmael and Abraham thought that he could be the start of God's plan. About 13 years later, some angels came to visit Abraham and told him that Ishmael was not the son that God had promised him, but that in one year they would come back and Sarah would have a baby. When Sarah heard this she laughed because they didn't think this could be possible, but they told her that nothing is too hard for God. The next year, Sarah had a baby and they named him Isaac and that's where today's story starts.

Read Genesis 21:1-21 and/ or tell the story in your own words highlighting the following points:

- God kept His promise and gave Abraham & Sarah a son in their old age. This son was the beginning of the promise from God.
- When Isaac started to grow up, Ishmael got jealous of all the attention Isaac was getting. It bothered Sarah the way that Ishmael was treating Isaac, so she asked Abraham to send Ishmael away.
- Abraham didn't like the idea of sending away his son, but God told him not to worry that even though Isaac was the promised son and Isaac was the one through whom God would bless the world, that He would still bless Ishmael and make him into a great nation too. God reminded Abraham that His plan was to bless the world through the family He would give Abraham and that was through Isaac.
- So Abraham sent Hagar & Ishmael away into the desert with some bread and water. They wandered around and when they were about to run out of water, Hagar cried out to God because she was scared that her son would die. God spoke to Hagar and told her that He would make Ishmael into a great nation and then God showed her a well and she and Ishmael drank and lived. Ishmael grew up in the desert and married an Egyptian woman and God kept His promise to Ishmael and made him into a great nation too.

DEFINE AND REMEMBER:

To help the kids remember this truth about God, take a few minutes to define the attribute.

SOVEREIGN = RULES OVER ALL

Since motions & actions help kids remember, choose an action for *SOVEREIGN*. A good motion might be to pretend that you're holding the reins of a horse and pull gently on them.

MEMORY VERSE:

SAY: “Today we’re talking about the truth that God is sovereign...which means that He rules over All.”

*Read the memory verse (**Job 42:2**) a few times together and do the motion for sovereign.*

CROSS CONNECTION:

In the story today we were reminded of a promise that God made to Abraham in **Genesis 12:2-3 & 15:5-6** (read those verses). God promised an old man that he would be the father of a great nation. This seemed impossible to Abraham, but nothing is impossible for God. In this one promise, God was showing that He is the One who gives life, He is the One who controls where and when and to whom babies are born, He is the One who is **SOVEREIGN** over everything in all of creation. By giving Abraham & Sarah a baby in God’s timing, God was able to show that Isaac was born because he was God’s plan, not because of anything that people could plan. It was a miracle that an old lady like Sarah was able to have a baby. But, hidden in the promise to make Abraham into a great nation was an even bigger promise and an even bigger miracle. In Genesis 12:3, when God told Abram that all people on earth would be blessed through him, God was hinting to a child that would be born into Abraham’s family hundreds of years later. Another baby who’s birth would be a miracle. He wouldn’t be born to an old woman, but instead He would be born to a young woman who had yet to be married. He was the true promised Son. His name was Jesus and He was born as a blessing to all people. He was born to die on the cross and pay the price for our sin, so that everyone who believes in Him would be blessed by being brought into God’s family and made a child of God.

SONGS: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gdBRlIf_sw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_ewLEvA8_o

GAME: I See in the Stars

Supplies: Tray or box, rice, beads, or beans.

This is an imagination game. You need a large handful of beads, rice, or something small to represent stars. gather your children round a large tray or piece of fabric and

ask them what they see, then scatter the 'stars'. If the children are reluctant, start off by finding geometric shapes, then faces. It's amazing what they will see.

GAME: My New Name

Supplies: Ball

Each child gets to choose a new name, keep it simple, preferably an adjective or phrase 3 words or less. Introduce a ball and have the person holding the ball say their new name followed by the name of the person they are passing the ball to. Slowly get faster and faster until the children have learned the new names. At the end, discuss if the new name suits the person and why they chose it.

DISCUSSION: Fun Facts About Sarah

- Sarah's name means "princess."
- She is married to Abraham.
- She is so beautiful that rulers want to be with her.
- She wants to have a baby with Abraham.
- She can't get pregnant, so her handmaiden (Hagar) has a baby for her.
- But when the little boy (Ishmael) is born, Sarah and Hagar don't get along.
- Thirteen years later, God tells Abraham that Sarah will have her own son.
- She is 90 when Isaac is born.
- She doesn't want Isaac and Ishmael growing up together.
- So she tells Abraham to send Ishmael and Hagar far away.
- Sarah is 127 years old when she dies.

REVIEW:

Give each child a blank piece of paper. Provide markers or colored pencils. Encourage them to write the word SOVEREIGN somewhere on the paper and then write or draw something to help them remember this attribute of God. They could write the definition for sovereign or the memory verse or they could illustrate the story. After a few minutes, bring the group back together and give kids time to share what they have drawn or written.

PRAYER:

Pray that the kids in the group would come to know God more and more each week through this study and that they would remember that all of us are sinners who need to be saved and that they would turn to this good God for salvation. Pray that the children in the class would come to understand God's sovereign rule and trust His perfect plan in all things.