

Icebreaker question: Who has heard God speak to them in some way? What was it like? Was it an internal voice? Some kind of circumstances? How did you know it was Him?

1. Read Ephesians 1.11 and Colossians 1.16-17. In the message the doctrine of the sovereignty of God was said to consist of these four points: God chooses or elects, God is pursuing a plan that He will bring to a conclusion, God is preserving the world He created, and God is omniscient (all-knowing) and omnipresent (all-powerful). In the message Bob posed the question, “just how much control does God have?” How much control do you think he has, based on these verses?
2. When you consider God’s sovereignty, and your answer to question 1, what does it mean for you on the personal level? Does it mean anything practically? Does it impact how you make decisions? Do you believe that God has a perfect plan for each person that they must understand and fulfill?
3. One way to understand God’s sovereignty on the practical level is to do His will. Look up these verses all of which talk about God’s will: Mark 3.35, Romans 12.1-3; I Thessalonians 4.3 and 5.18, and 1 Peter 2.15 and 4.19. What do these verses say about God’s will? Does this help you better understand God’s sovereignty on the personal level?
4. The message contrasted “the magic god of circumstances” with the “sovereign God of the Bible.” Bob said that we turn to the magic god of circumstances to control what we cannot control: life”, do you agree? *(The magic god of circumstances was said to be the god of the entitled who demand God’s help, the god of faith who answers prayers offered with positive confession, the god we negotiate with, the god who covers our mistakes, and the god who opens and closes doors. The point of this question, with question number 3, is to demonstrate that God’s will has to do with character and faithfulness more than with specific decisions.)*
5. What is the difference between following God’s will as discussed in question 3 and trying to control one’s life as discussed in question 4? Does one come more naturally to you? Does thinking about in this way change the way you will approach major decisions in your life? If so, how?
6. Is anyone in the group facing a decision in which they are tempted to try to control the situation rather than submit to God’s will?