

WEEK OF APRIL 23, 2023



GOD *Alone*

PREPARE



BEFORE
YOU BEGIN



TALK TOGETHER

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS? THINK ABOUT HOW YOU FELT. DID YOU FEEL SAD, ANGRY OR DISAPPOINTED?

When plans change, it's easy to feel frustrated. Maybe you had to eat something you don't like for dinner. Or maybe you had to cancel a trip because someone in the family got sick. Things happen in life that we can't control. We don't always get to do what we please.

The weather is an example of something that is outside of our control. When it's raining, we can't go to the park. When it's icy, we can't go for a ride in the car. We can't control the weather, but there is someone who can. **Let's read Psalm 135:5-7 in the Old Testament to learn more.**

CONT. →



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



FOR I KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GREAT, AND THAT OUR LORD IS ABOVE ALL GODS. WHATEVER THE LORD PLEASES, HE DOES, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, IN THE SEAS AND ALL DEEPS. HE IT IS WHO MAKES THE CLOUDS RISE AT THE END OF THE EARTH, WHO MAKES LIGHTNINGS FOR THE RAIN AND BRINGS FORTH THE WIND FROM HIS STOREHOUSES.

PSALM 135:5-7

Weather played an important role in daily life when this Psalm was written. It affected people's sources of food. If the weather was bad, crops would die. If crops died, people would go hungry. Many men and women worshiped false gods. The people hoped these gods could control the weather and give them good crops. **But God is the one true God.** He is the God of yesterday, today and forever. He alone controls the clouds, wind, lightning and rain. He allows crops to grow and provides food for people — even today.



God controls so much more than the weather. He is **sovereign**, which means He is in control of everything. He controls creation, history and every moment of our lives. **God does whatever He pleases.** Nothing happens without Him allowing it. When He decides to do something, His will can't be stopped. Because He is a good God, we can trust that what He pleases is good for us. **Because God is sovereign,** we know He works all the details of our lives together for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28).

We can't do whatever we want. There are many things in life we can't control. **Even when the weather is stormy or we have to change our plans, we can trust God's way is good for us.**

GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING GOD CREATED WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED, AND SIN PASSED TO ALL PEOPLE, EVEN YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF US ARE SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE:

PSALMS

This week's story comes from the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms is in the Old Testament and is a collection of songs, praises and poems speaking to or about God. The Psalms were written throughout the time period of the Old Testament, and many were written by King David.

OT-NT CONNECTION

Jesus' brother James, a leader of the early church, has something to say about our plans and God's will. **Read James 4:13-15.**

- Is it wrong to make plans?
- Who has control over the events of our life?
- How should we approach our plans? (Hint: What should we say BEFORE we make plans?)

WHEN I GROW UP, CAN I DO WHATEVER I WANT?

God puts children in families under the authority of their parents (or guardians) who are called to teach them God's Word and His ways (Ephesians 6:1-4).

When we grow up, we are no longer under our parents' authority, but we have new responsibilities. While an adult may be able to make more decisions about their life than a child, they are still under the authority of God and His Word (Ephesians 5:22-33). God wants the best for us. We should obey Him at any age.

JOURNAL



First, write about something you can't control that frustrates or upsets you.

Next, write a short prayer and ask God to help you with this situation.

WHY SHOULD I PRAY IF GOD IS IN CONTROL AND WILL DO WHATEVER HE WANTS?

In Matthew 6, Jesus tells us to pray to God: "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." God's will is what He pleases. It's the way things should happen and the way things are supposed to be.

God does not always give us what we want, but He always gives us what is best and according to His will. When we pray, our will (the things we want) begins to reflect His will (the things He pleases).

READ



God's sovereignty covers every moment of our lives, from beginning to end. No matter what happens in life, we can be comforted by His attention and care for us.

Read Psalm 139, Psalm 90 and Romans 8:31-38. Think about what these passages of Scripture say about life and God's sovereignty. What did you learn from these verses?

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF APRIL 23, 2023

♥ MEMORIZE

WHATEVER THE LORD PLEASES, HE DOES, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, IN THE SEAS AND ALL DEEPS.

PSALM 135:6

Q: WHO CAN DO ANYTHING HE PLEASES?

A: GOD!

SHARE

Tell your kids about a time something had to change (in your life, in your plans, etc.) and God sovereignly worked it out for your good. Remind them that even though you didn't get to do what you wanted, God did what He wanted. His ways are best.

FIND

This week's verse is in the book of Psalms. Help your child find the book of Psalms. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

WATCH



Watch this week's Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

PRAY

GOD, YOU ARE GREAT! THERE IS NO ONE LIKE YOU. THANK YOU FOR BEING IN CONTROL OF ALL CREATION AND EVERY DETAIL OF MY LIFE. DO WHAT YOU PLEASE IN ME, AND HELP ME TO BE OBEDIENT TO YOUR WORD. AMEN.

FORECAST

Have your child watch the weekly weather forecast with you. As the week goes by, keep track of how many times the weather predictions were correct. Remind your child that only God can control the weather and our lives.

CREATE

Get out some clay and have some fun sculpting as a family. Read Jeremiah 18:1-6 and Romans 9:20-21. Compare the personal experience of sculpting to the spiritual experience of God doing what He pleases (as the Potter) with us (the clay).

FLY

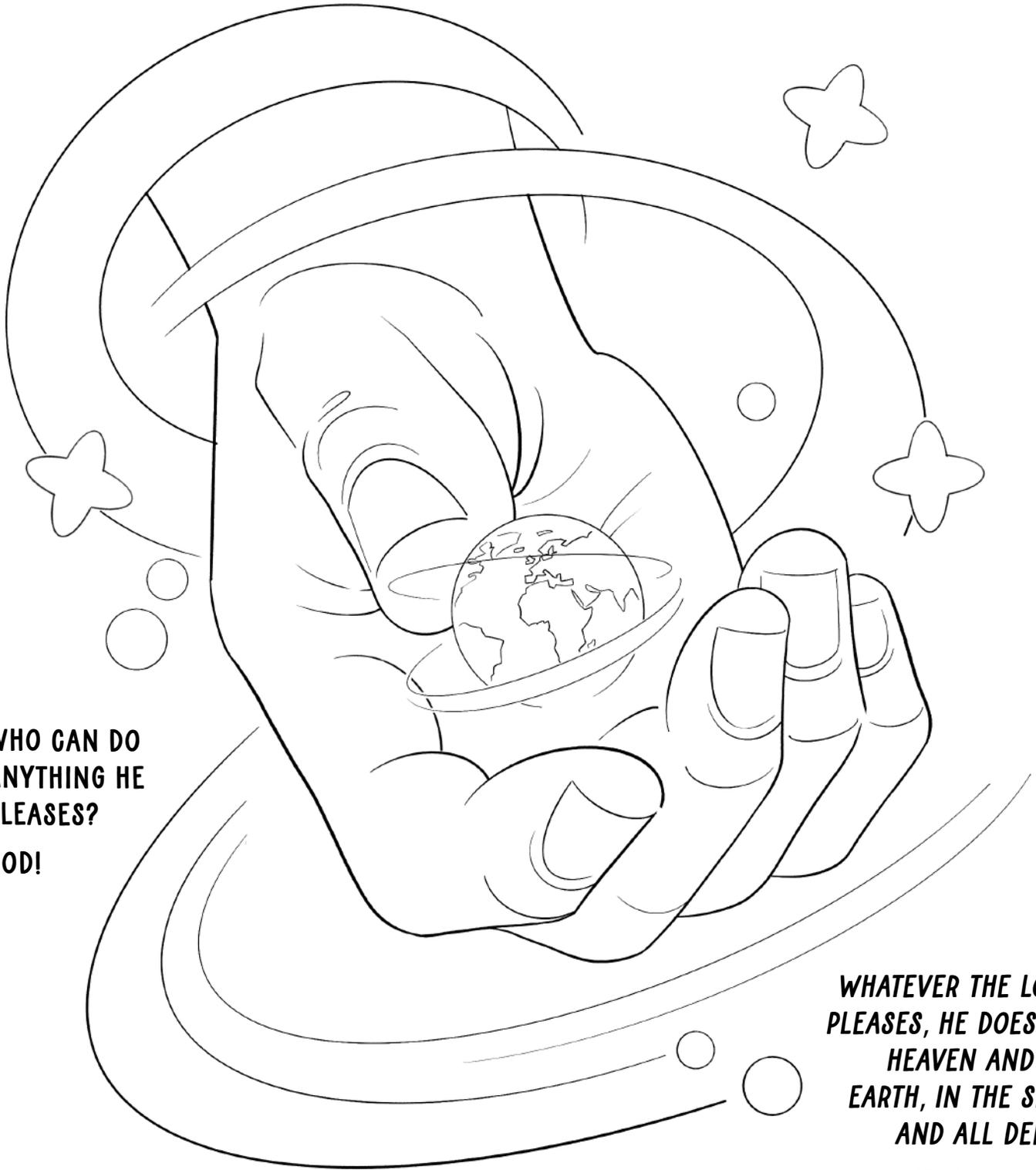
Look up your local airport's flight schedule. Show your child how many airplanes take off every day. Now look to see how many flights were canceled, came in late or arrived early. Explain that although humans try to plan things a certain way, we are not in control of everything. Only God is sovereign.

SING



Listen to this playlist throughout the series to praise God and God alone!

SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!



**WHO CAN DO
ANYTHING HE
PLEASES?
GOD!**

***WHATEVER THE LORD
PLEASES, HE DOES, IN
HEAVEN AND ON
EARTH, IN THE SEAS
AND ALL DEEPS.
(PSALM 135:6)***

NAME: _____