

LIFE GROUP – WEEK FOUR



Jesus is in Control

Hebrews 2:5-9

This Winter, we are experiencing God's presence together by encountering Jesus in the Book of Hebrews. This week, we considered the sovereignty of King Jesus, in light of the fact that we "do not yet see everything in subjection to him." In short - how can we say "Jesus is in control" if there are still things like sin, suffering, and evil in the world?

GETTING STARTED

We start each week by intentionally being present to one another. If you need a little help getting the conversation going, consider starting with these questions...

Ice Breaker

Team chocolate or
ALL other candy

Going Deeper

How do you tend to respond when things feel out of control? Do you tend to get anxious, hold onto hope, or something else?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Our discipleship to Jesus is meant to be a holistic way of living, involving our whole selves - **head, heart, and hands**. While each person will likely gravitate to one of these over the others, it's important we all consider how God's love affects our minds, our hearts, and our actions.

REMINDER: These guides are meant to facilitate PRESENCE - to God and one another - not to check boxes. Feel free to let conversation naturally flow to whichever questions connect with you personally. As the Spirit leads you, feel free to set aside this guide to pause, praise, and pray together.

HEAD

How would you answer someone who says that the reality of evil and suffering must mean that God is either not good, not powerful, or both?

What Scriptures do you think of when you think of the sovereignty of God? Read some and discuss their implications. (If you need some suggestions, check out the bottom of this guide.)

Why does it matter that we hold onto God's sovereignty, providence, and intervention as distinct but related truths? How would it affect us if one were missing?

HEART

Have you ever experienced a season of suffering that made you struggle with the idea of God's sovereignty? If you feel comfortable doing so, can you share that experience with the group? How did God meet you in that season?

V8 says, "*At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.*" What areas in life, if any, feel out of control or not subject to King Jesus right now?

How does thinking about God's sovereignty make you feel? Does it inspire hope, provide comfort, cause confusion? What do you think should be the prevailing response from Christians to God's sovereignty?

HANDS

Has anyone ever tried to comfort you with God's sovereignty, only to minimize your experience of suffering?

How can we talk about God's sovereignty in a way that both honors someone else's suffering and offers hope?

Is there anyone you can encourage with the message that "Jesus is in control" this week?

PRACTICE OF PRESENCE

Close your discussion with a time of extended prayer (10-15min). Bring to God the things that you "do not yet see... in subjection to him" - areas of life that feel out of control or not as they should be.

Prayerfully confess the truth that God is sovereign, even in those areas. Prayerfully imagine what God might providentially be working through those situations. Prayerfully plead with God to intervene on your behalf or on behalf of others. Thank him that even when you are not in control, he is.