**He Is – Week 1 (Sovereign)**

**September 17-18, 2022**

What’s up everyone? Welcome to Northview Students! If this is your first time with us, we are so glad you’re here. I am really excited about this brand new series that we are starting today called “He Is”. We are going to spend six weeks talking about different qualities of God. In order for us to follow God and even give Him control of our whole life, we should be spending time getting to know Him and what He is like! The Bible is full of stories of people that are trying to have a relationship with God and make sense of the world they lived in…and we are no different than them!

As Christians, we believe God is our Creator…everything you see around you was created by God. Nehemiah 9:6 in the Old Testament says it this way, *“You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.”*

Students, God made something as vast as outer space, yet he also created the smallest fish and insects. God is in complete control of EVERYTHING in the universe. In fact, that is what our **THP (or Take Home Point)** will focus on today. The first THP has a word that I want to teach you: sovereign. Here it is!

**God is sovereign!**

The word sovereign simply means “ultimate or supreme power.” God is sovereign and that means no one is more powerful than Him! He is in complete control of everything! Now, just by a show of hands…how many of you like to be in control? Alright everyone, look around. These are all the control freaks in the room! Just kidding. I think if we’re all honest, we all like to be in control in at least some situations.

**(Teacher’s Note: Share a situation where you** **like to be in control.)**

However, there are so many situations where we are not in control. Riding on the bus, going to the dentist, flying on an airplane – you’re not in control in any of those situations yet we do them all the time. We are trusting those in charge in those situations because they have complete control – at least we hope they do! I’m not sure I would like the idea of filling a cavity on my own teeth or flying an airplane!

I’ll give you another example. Did you know that you are actually moving at 1,070 mph as we speak? No, seriously. Every single one of you. Some of you are probably like, “I KNEW I was a fast runner, and this just proved it!” Sorry to burst your bubble, but here’s what I really mean…that’s how fast the earth is rotating, and we don’t even feel a thing! Look at this video!

**(Teacher’s Note: Show Earth Sun Moon Rotating Video – continue saying the next part of the script while it’s playing. The video doesn’t have any audio.)**

Not only is the earth rotating, but the earth is also going around in a big circle around the sun. At the same time the earth is rotating and orbiting the sun, the moon is also going around in a circle around the earth. **All of this is happening and yet nothing is bumping into one another!**

Did you ever think about that? There are gravitational and atmospheric forces keeping everything moving at the right speed and at the right distance. Who or what is doing that?! Maybe this video can help us understand a little bit better about how big God is.

**(Teacher’s Note: “The Awe Factor of God” video)**

Let me ask you something…does this blow your mind? I mean, seriously. All of that is happening, and yet here we are today with our life group or sitting at home watching – A MERE SPECK IN THE UNIVERSE! Here’s the coolest part – God is concerned with the big and the small. God is in control of what’s huge and what’s tiny; from the biggest of planets and galaxies to the tiniest of insects. In fact, Jesus even talks about this in the New Testament in Luke 12:6-7: *“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”*

Jesus is saying that God takes care of the sparrows and makes sure they have enough to eat. God knows how many hairs are on your head! You might be thinking, “Doesn’t God have more important things to take care of?” Not according to Jesus! In fact…it’s the exact opposite. God cares about every detail, no matter how small or insignificant they may seem to us! They are important to Him.

Students, YOU are IMPORTANT TO GOD! He cares about you and what’s going on in your life…and not just the big things or what we think is “important” about our life. God cares about every single detail of YOUR life. Can I challenge you with this: if God can keep the universe and all of the galaxies completely in order, don’t you think you can trust Him with the challenges in your life?

God is directing everything around us…kind of like an orchestra or band director. For those of you who are in band or orchestra, you know that the director has to know what instruments have to play at just the right time. They have to conduct the band at the right tempo, they have to know how loud or how soft the orchestra has to play, and they have to pay really close attention the entire time the song is being played.

Students, God is doing that right now with this world and not just with the big things. Just like Jesus said about the sparrows from that verse we read in Luke…NOT A SINGLE ONE OF YOU IS FORGOTTEN BY GOD. He cares about you. He loves you.

**This great big God, who COULD choose to not bother with us…He could just stay somewhere far away from humanity like, “I’ve got more important things to do.” In fact, a lot of people see God like that. Maybe you think or have thought about God in that way. That’s not what Scripture teaches. The Scripture teaches that God sent His only Son: Jesus Christ, (God in human form. GOD IN THE FLESH) to this world!**

Listen to the New Testament writer, Paul, talk about this in Philippians 2:6-8: *“…Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!”*

This powerful God, this SOVEREIGN God who could have stayed in heaven and not even cared about us – this God came directly to us. He did that so He could identify with us and get to know us and actually show us that He loves us. In Jesus, we were able to get a glimpse of just how awesome this sovereign God is.

The same New Testament writer, Paul (that we mentioned earlier) says this in Colossians 1:15-17: *“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”*

I love that last part: IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER. Nothing can happen apart from God. Nothing. Students…I want my life to be in God’s control and I want yours to be, too.

**(Teacher’s Note: Share an example of when God’s sovereignty showed up in your life in a powerful way)**

Let’s look at our THP one more time: God is sovereign. Since God is sovereign, we can trust Him with anything in our life. Our God is the most powerful. He is in complete control. We also know He cares about us and since He is a perfect, loving God…we can know with full trust that He will take care of us while He is in control. That is awesome news! Let me pray for you as we close today.

**(Teacher’s Note: Pray and then finish the rest of the script.)**

Thanks for being here today and our hope for you at Northview Students is this: go into the rest of this week knowing that God is sovereign and He is in control, even when it seems like life is out of control. Have a great discussion and we’ll see you next week!