

MAIN POINT:

Acts: God is Sovereign

God is sovereign, which means that He is in control of everything and has power over everything. In the book of Acts we see where God worked out His sovereignty to help His disciples and early church accomplish their task of spreading the good news of Jesus. God showed that He is sovereign over the church's suffering and our difficult circumstances. Even though the church began to be attacked and was treated badly, God's used those difficulties to spread the good news of His love and mercy to the rest of the world. As the church was scattered around, they preached the word wherever they went. People were healed by the power of the Holy Spirit, people believed and were baptized. God accomplished His good purposes even through bad events. Also, God showed He is sovereign over the church's mission. God provides opportunities for us to share the good news of Jesus with others. In His word, God says He will bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Further, God is sovereign over the church's persecutors and those who oppose you. God can change anyone's heart and reveal who He is to them—all for His good purposes. God has a perfect plan and we can ask Him to help us trust Him more fully through all circumstances in our lives.

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

1. **Let's read Acts 9:20-23. As we read it, make note of words or phrases that stand out to us. Which words/phrases stood out to you? What motivated Saul to go and spread the good news of Jesus? Who empowered him to do this?** *(He was motivated because of the transformation that happened in his life. He had experienced Jesus, he believed and was baptized. The Holy Spirit filled him and gave him what he needed to spread the good news of Jesus to those in Damascus).*
2. **Today we learned that God is Sovereign over everything. What does sovereign mean?** *(Sovereign means everything that happens in this world, in our lives, is under the authority and ultimate control of God.)*

Where do you see God's sovereignty in Paul's life? Where have you seen God's sovereignty in your own life? *(Share your own answer and listen to your student's answer.)*

3. **Why can it be difficult to trust God when we are going through tough times? What is something you can do during a hard time to remind yourself that God is trustworthy, faithful, good, and sovereign?** *(Share your own answer and listen to your student's answer.)*
4. **Can you share about a time you have seen God use something that was uncomfortable, hard, or bad and used it in your life in a positive way?** *(Share your own answer and listen to your student's answer.)*

FAMILY PRAYER:

I am going to read some passages of scripture to focus us on God, and then I will bless you.

“Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.” (Deut. 4:39)

"(Student's name), may God bless you with the knowledge that He is in control. May you freshly see Him working in your life and release all worry, knowing that our loving God is watching over you and plans His best for you."