

**HEALING THE PAST GOD'S WAY**  
**CHAPTER 4 TEACHING NOTES**  
**GOD IS ALMIGHTY; GOD IS SOVEREIGN**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

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 in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.  
Psalm 135:5 & 6

Begin each class with a short reminder of what has already been taught. Keep reinforcing the themes of the earlier lessons: *I am God's child; I am chosen; I am loved; I am forgiven; I am sanctified and I am called*. Don't use up more than a couple of minutes, but do take the time to revisit foundational stones.

**Teaching tip:** continue the process of *modeling* Christian (Biblical) living.

Older women (mature in Christ) likewise are to be reverent in behavior,  
not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and to train  
the young women (immature in Christ or new believers) to love their husbands and children,  
to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands,  
that the Word of God may not be reviled.

Titus 2:3 – 5

In Proverbs 31 and in the above passage in Titus, the process of *teaching* is less about speaking and more about living. We *model* behavior in the activity of doing a behavior. By this lesson, the fourth of eighteen, you should be modeling transparency, discipline (doing the work outside of class, being prepared for class), the heart of a servant, prayer, etc. Let the women (or men) see you *doing* and then invite them to *do*.

**WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT GOD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT YOU**

*WHAT GOD OWES US:* (January 22<sup>nd</sup> Daily Bread Entry) A story is told about a vendor who sold bagels for 50 cents each at a street corner food stand. A jogger ran past and threw a couple of quarters into the bucket but didn't take a bagel. He did the same thing every day for months. One day, as the jogger was passing by, the vendor stopped. The jogger asked, "You probably want to know why I always put money in but never take a bagel, don't you?" "No," said the vendor. "I just wanted to tell you that the bagels have gone up to 60 cents."

Too often, as believers, we treat God with that same kind of attitude. Not only are we ungrateful for what He's given us – but we want more. Somehow we feel that God owes us good health, a comfortable life, material blessings. Of course, God doesn't owe us anything, yet He gives us everything. G.K. Chesterton wrote, "Here dies another day, during which I have had eyes, ears, hands, and the great world around me. And with tomorrow begins another. Why am I allowed two?" The Psalmist said, "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24). Cindy Hess Kasper

As you teach on God's character, don't excuse (example: lessening God's power because of suffering) and don't downplay (bringing God down to our level). God is who He says He is – use the same brush strokes to define Him that He uses in His Word.

Left to ourselves we tend immediately to reduce God to manageable terms. We want to get Him where we can use Him, or at least know where He is when we need Him. We want a God we can in some measure control. We need the feeling of security that comes from knowing what God is like, and what He is like is of course a composite of all the religious pictures we have seen, all the best people we have known or heard about, and all the sublime ideas we have entertained. A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

In addition, remind your class that God owes us nothing! All powerful and all mighty – He alone is the Author, the Provider, the Sustainer and we are His needy and dependent children.

## **GOD IS ALMIGHTY**

All Power and All Authority are His – there is no one like Him (Psalm 135 and 136)

Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty? They are high as the heavens, what can you do? Deeper than Sheol, what can you know? Its measure is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea. Job 11:7 – 9

\*I have to be like God to even understand that I can't fathom all that God is. I don't even know what I don't know about God.

## **OMNIPOTENT/ALL POWERFUL – Various Scriptures**

It is not possible for you and I to know the infinitude of God's *all*. Even as God has *expressed* Himself through the act of creation and in His recorded feats of which we read in His Word, the temptation is to imagine that what God has done is all that God can do. In our minds, that wonder and beauty and power and complexity is a stunning *all*, but truth be told, it is not the *all* of God, just the *all* that He has so far revealed to us.

### **Creator of the Universe – Creator of all natural law**

**Miracles are a suspension of natural law** (pick your favorite miracle and walk them through it)

**Parting of the Red Sea – Exodus 14**

**Day Sun Stood Still – Joshua 10**

**Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in fiery furnace – Daniel 3**

**Daniel in the lion's den – Daniel 6**

**Prophecies of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection**

In a prayer, Jeremiah prays “Ah Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee”

And the Lord responded “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?” Jeremiah 32:17 & 27

## OMNISCIENT/ALL KNOWING

To know all things means that even those things we can not imagine or conceive of, God knows right now. In fact, to be more accurate, God has always known all things at all times and as long as He has been God, our Creator has known it. Here again, we get to celebrate that we don't even know what we don't know in acknowledging that God knows everything right now. God is omniscient and I, thankfully, can entrust myself to His wisdom and understanding.

The LORD possessed me (wisdom) at the beginning of His work, the first of His acts of old.  
Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.  
Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth,  
before He had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world.  
When He established the heavens, I was there;  
when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He made firm the skies above,  
when He established the foundations of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress His command,  
when He marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside Him, like a master workman,  
and I was daily His delight, rejoicing before Him always,  
rejoicing in His inhabited world and delighting in the children of men.  
Proverbs 8:22 - 31

1 John 3:20b and Psalm 139

## OMNI-PRESENT/ALL PRESENT – Psalm 139

God is always nearer than you may imagine Him to be.  
God is so near that your thoughts are not as near as God;  
your breath is not as near as God;  
your very soul is not as near to you as God is.  
And yet God, because He is God,  
His uncreated Being is so far above us  
that no thought can conceive it nor words express it.  
A. W. Tozer, *The Attributes of God: Volume One*

God is not present in any place, space or time as we understand present. God exists within and throughout and outside of His creation. Time and place, as elements of creation can not and do not contain Him. God is all present, everywhere and infinitely in-between.

“Am I a God who is near,” declares the Lord, “And not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places, so I do not see him?” declares the Lord. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the Lord. Jeremiah 23:23 – 24

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors,  
remember the former things of old;  
for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me,  
declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done,  
saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'  
Calling a bird of prey from the east,  
The man of my counsel from a far country.  
I have spoken and I will bring it to pass;  
I have purposed, and I will do it.  
Isaiah 46:8 - 11

Sovereignty is the ability and the exercise of that ability to act over and rule a kingdom or a creation.

God's sovereignty is absolute. No power or authority on earth has absolute power but God alone.

Romans 13:1 God has given authority to all governing rulers and kings – God's purpose will be established according to His will

God will not answer questions about His sovereignty – His control

When Job questioned God, God replied: "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: "Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right? Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his? "Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor. Pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him. Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low and tread down the wicked where they stand. Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below. Then will I also acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you. Job 40:6 – 14

### ***GOD IS SOVEREIGN:***

**over His creatures:** Proverbs 21:1; Ecclesiastes 7:13

**over nature:** Jeremiah 14:22; Isaiah 4:7

**over countries:** 2 Chronicles 20:6; Romans 13

**over circumstances:** Matthew 20:1 – 15 (Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard)

For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'

**GOD IS GOD; I AM NOT** – all I have, am, will be flows from the Giver of Life, the Ruler of all

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? Romans 9:20 – 21

**GOD'S ONLY LIMIT(s):**

God can not lie – Titus 1:2

God can not deny Himself - 2 Timothy 2:13

God can not be tempted nor does He tempt anyone – James 1:13

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:**

In what ways have you experienced God's power? How has it changed you?

Do you now understand how important it is to acknowledge that God is in control of all things? What will it look like for you to give up your false sense of control and give all things over to God?