

He is...

(Omnipotent)

LIFE LESSON

The statement we're talking about today is that God is omnipotent, or that He's all-powerful. Now the truth is, most of us have an attraction to power, whether toward a powerful personality, or to a display of power, like that of a thunderstorm or explosion. But regardless of the display, the bible is very clear that all power belongs to God. For instance, in Jesus' famous commission to His disciples, He clearly states that all authority has been given unto Him (Matthew 28:18-20). So when it came to the disciples, including Paul, they all believed Jesus was all-powerful, or that all power came from Him. For instance, here's what Paul said to the churches in Rome and in Colossi...

📖 **Romans 11:36 (NLT)** *For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.*

📖 **Colossians 1:15-17 (NLT)** *Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.*


➔ **If you were trying to explain to a four year old child how powerful God is, what would you say?**

One of the coolest stories where Jesus puts His supreme power over creation on display, was when He calmed a very powerful storm that had all the disciples believing their death was imminent. Here's what we're told...

📖 **Luke 8:22-25 (NLT)** *One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and started out. As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap. But soon a fierce storm came down on the lake. The boat was filling with water, and they were in real danger. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?" The disciples were terrified and amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!"*

➔ **In your opinion, what point was Jesus trying to make with the disciples concerning their reaction to the storm? Or how should we apply Jesus' words about faith in our present day?**


Whether it was Paul, or one of the original disciples, all of them knew Jesus was all-powerful or that He was the supreme authority over everything that seemed powerful to them. For instance, Jesus didn't just display His power and authority over massive storms, He demonstrated His power over sickness, disease, dismemberment, demons, and even over death itself! In fact, in the oldest book of the Old Testament (the book of Job), one of the most important things God states about Himself, is His power over the most powerful things Job had ever heard of...

 **Job 40:15-42:2 (NLT)** *"Take a look at Behemoth, which I made, just as I made you. It eats grass like an ox. See its powerful loins and the muscles of its belly. Its tail is as strong as a cedar. The sinews of its thighs are knit tightly together. Its bones are tubes of bronze. Its limbs are bars of iron. It is a prime example of God's handiwork, and only its Creator can threaten it. The mountains offer it their best food, where all the wild animals play. It lies under the lotus plants, hidden by the reeds in the marsh. The lotus plants give it shade among the willows beside the stream. It is not disturbed by the raging river, not concerned when the swelling Jordan rushes around it. No one can catch it off guard or put a ring in its nose and lead it away. Can you catch Leviathan with a hook or put a noose around its jaw? Can you tie it with a rope through the nose or pierce its jaw with a spike? Will it beg you for mercy or implore you for pity? Will it agree to work for you, to be your slave for life? Can you make it a pet like a bird, or give it to your little girls to play with? Will merchants try to buy it to sell it in their shops? Will its hide be hurt by spears or its head by a harpoon? If you lay a hand on it, you will certainly remember the battle that follows. You won't try that again! No, it is useless to try to capture it. The hunter who attempts it will be knocked down. And since no one dares to disturb it, who then can stand up to me? Who has given me anything that I need to pay back? Everything under heaven is mine. I want to emphasize Leviathan's limbs and its enormous strength and graceful form. Who can strip off its hide, and who can penetrate its double layer of armor? Who could pry open its jaws? For its teeth are terrible! The scales on its back are like rows of shields tightly sealed together. They are so close together that no air can get between them. Each scale sticks tight to the next. They interlock and cannot be penetrated. When it sneezes, it flashes light! Its eyes are like the red of dawn. Lightning leaps from its mouth; flames of fire flash out. Smoke streams from its nostrils like steam from a pot heated over burning rushes. Its breath would kindle coals, for flames shoot from its mouth. The tremendous strength in Leviathan's neck strikes terror wherever it goes. Its flesh is hard and firm and cannot be penetrated. Its heart is hard as rock, hard as a millstone. When it rises, the mighty are afraid, gripped by terror. No sword can stop it, no spear, dart, or javelin. Iron is nothing but straw to that creature, and bronze is like rotten wood. Arrows cannot make it flee. Stones shot from a sling are like bits of grass. Clubs are like a blade of grass, and it laughs at the swish of javelins. Its belly is covered with scales as sharp as glass. It plows up the ground as it drags through the mud. Leviathan makes the water boil with its commotion. It stirs the depths like a pot of ointment. The water glistens in its wake, making the sea look white. Nothing on earth is its equal, no other creature so*

fearless. Of all the creatures, it is the proudest. It is the king of beasts.” Then Job replied to the Lord: “I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.”

- ➔ **Who would like to recap the story of Job?**
- ➔ **Why do you think God felt it necessary to remind Job of His power? Or why would God remind us of His power?**

The story of Job, more than anything, is a story about God’s sovereignty, or that God can do whatever He wants with our lives. And the reason why is because God is omnipotent or all-powerful. However, like Job, when bad things happen in our lives, some of us question God or demand answers or explanations from Him, forgetting that God has more than likely answered our personal questions through a friend, like what God did with Job’s friend, Elihu. And we all need to hear what Elihu had to say...

 **Job 36:5-24 (NLT)** *“God is mighty, but he does not despise anyone! He is mighty in both power and understanding. He does not let the wicked live but gives justice to the afflicted. He never takes his eyes off the innocent, but he sets them on thrones with kings and exalts them forever. If they are bound in chains and caught up in a web of trouble, he shows them the reason. He shows them their sins of pride. He gets their attention and commands that they turn from evil. If they listen and obey God, they will be blessed with prosperity throughout their lives. All their years will be pleasant. But if they refuse to listen to him, they will cross over the river of death, dying from lack of understanding. For the godless are full of resentment. Even when he punishes them, they refuse to cry out to him for help. They die when they are young, after wasting their lives in immoral living. But by means of their suffering, he rescues those who suffer. For he gets their attention through adversity. God is leading you away from danger, Job, to a place free from distress. He is setting your table with the best food. But you are obsessed with whether the godless will be judged. Don’t worry, judgment and justice will be upheld. But watch out, or you may be seduced by wealth. Don’t let yourself be bribed into sin. Could all your wealth or all your mighty efforts keep you from distress? Do not long for the cover of night, for that is when people will be destroyed. Be on guard! Turn back from evil, for God sent this suffering to keep you from a life of evil. Look, God is all-powerful. Who is a teacher like him? No one can tell him what to do, or say to him, ‘You have done wrong.’ Instead, glorify his mighty works, singing songs of praise.”*

- ➔ **If we get caught up in trouble, what will God do?**
- ➔ **True or false... Abundant wealth and an incredible prayer life will ensure us a distress free life.**
- ➔ **In your opinion, what lesson did Job need to learn from God?**

One of the most important things any of us can learn or understand from the story of Job, is that God is indeed all-powerful. But more importantly, we should understand that God uses His power to teach even the godliest of people how to live their lives according to His will. So if you think of yourself as godly, remember that God isn’t just omnipresent, and omniscient, He’s also all-powerful. Therefore, when

God wants to teach us something, He will. Which means, God might have to get our attention through adversity, but it's always to lead us away from danger. And remember, no one can tell Him what to do, or say to Him, "You're doing it wrong." Instead, we should glorify God's mighty works, and sing songs of praise. So to help us all keep our focus on that this week, I'd like to suggest we meditate on what Paul said to the churches around Ephesus concerning God's power...

MEDITATION PASSAGE FOR THE WEEK

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Ephesians 1:18-23 (NLT)

He is...Omnipotent

LESSON GOAL: Kids learn what it means that God is omnipotent

MEMORY VERSE:

"I know that you can do anything. No one can keep you from doing what you plan to do." | **JOB 42:2 NIRV**

OMNIPOTENT – WHAT'S THAT?

Omnipotent means being all powerful, or being the source of all power and authority over every single thing. God is the creator of everything, so he has power over everything. Because Jesus is the Son of God, he also has power over everything – all creation, the stars, the sun, the weather...EVERYTHING.

'For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.' | **ROMANS 11:36 NLT**

OMNIPOTENT – WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?

Jesus's power over all things is one of the many characteristics that show us he is the one true God and creator. There are several examples of his power and authority described in the Bible and they're there on purpose.

Those who wrote about Jesus wanted to make sure that His followers understood just how powerful and great He is!!

He has power over the weather:

'The disciples went and woke Jesus up. They said, "Master! Master! We're going to drown!" He got up and ordered the wind and the huge waves to stop. The storm quieted down. It was completely calm. | **LUKE 8:24 NIRV**

This is was so shocking that even the disciples who had already witnessed the miracles that Jesus had been performing was amazed and even afraid when they saw that Jesus could command a storm to settle down and it obeyed. If you read the rest of this section, the disciples woke Jesus because they were afraid for their lives, and after he calmed the storm he accused them of not having faith.

Jesus had cast demons out of people, healed illnesses, turned water in to wine and so much more. He even walked on water and brought people back to life!

But long before God sent Jesus to teach us and eventually die for us and be resurrected, there was a man name Job in the oldest book in the whole Bible. Job was faithful and honorable and had great faith in God. He had lots of kids and servants and plenty of food and everyone worked and was healthy. But Satan challenged God that Job was only faithful because he had such "good" life. He wanted God to allow him to take that all away and see if Job was still faithful. Job lost every one of his kids, all of his livestock, he became very ill and had sores all over his body. Job was desperate for it all to end. He prayed and cried out to God and he complained to God for allowing all of this to happen to him, but God stayed silent for a long time. Job's friends came to try to encourage him but they really just told him he needed to stop sinning because God was punishing him (they were wrong). When God finally started to speak, he

reminded Job of just how powerful he is!! In fact, God gave SO MANY examples of his power, that it takes up 4 chapters in the book of Job to capture it all!!

"I am the Mighty One. Will the man who argues with me correct me? Let him who brings charges against me answer me!" "I'm not worthy. How can I reply to you? I'm putting my hand over my mouth. I'll stop talking. Job replied to the Lord, I spoke once. But I really don't have any answer. I spoke twice. But I won't say anything else." Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said, "Get ready to stand up for yourself. I will ask you some more questions. Then I want you to answer me. "Would you dare to claim that I am not being fair? Would you judge me in order to make yourself seem right? Is your arm as powerful as mine is? Can your voice thunder as mine does?" | **JOB 40:2-9 NIRV**

As he listened to God speak, Job knew that God's power was too amazing for him to understand. This is what he said when he started to apologize to God:

'Job replied to the Lord, "I know that you can do anything. No one can keep you from doing what you plan to do. You asked me, 'Who do you think you are to disagree with my plans? You do not know what you are talking about.' I spoke about things I didn't completely understand. I talked about things that were too wonderful for me to know.'" | **JOB 42:1-3 NIRV**

God's power means that we can trust his plans even when things feel so difficult that we just "want it to stop." God still has a plan, just like he had a plan for Job. After God reprimanded Job, he forgave him. Job was healed from all of his illnesses, had many more children and thousands of farm animals. In fact, the Bible tells us that the rest of his life was even better than before!

DISCUSSION | REVIEW

- What is the most powerful thing or person (other than God) you can think of (some examples - storms, super heroes, President, a parent, etc)?
 - How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is even more powerful than that??
- What is the hardest thing you've ever had to go through (illness, loss of a loved one, broken bone, loss of a home, getting in trouble, loss of a pet, etc)?
 - If you prayed about that situation, what kinds of things did you pray about?
 - We're all going to go through things that will challenge us and feel really tough, maybe even impossible. What things can we remember from Job's story that might help us when the hard things happen?
- What is one thing you learned today that you can share with a friend?