



Main Idea: God uses His strength for those who trust Him and against those who are proud.

Scriptures: Proverbs 3:34, Proverbs 29:25, Acts 7:57-60, Exodus 7:20-21, Exodus 12:7

The series we are starting today is about asking the question, who is God? One way to answer the question “who is so and so?” is to look at the life and actions of the person. We can often tell who someone is by what they do, and God is no different. Today, we can read and talk about God, but the ancient Israelites had no Bible, and so, were reliant on seeing and experiencing God through His actions. In the series, we’ll take a look at who God is through what He’s done. We’re going to zoom into key moments in the Old and New Testament where we can see God in action, and by His actions determine what kind of God, being, and person He is.

Today, we’re answering the question of “Who is God?” by answering that God is strong. We’re going to start this conversation by talking about a superhero. But first, let’s start with a prayer.

[Pray.]

My favorite superhero is [name your favorite superhero]. They can [list some of the hero’s powers] but the reality is that they can’t do most of what they do without a baseline of superstrength. When you think about it, this is true about every superhero, even “I don’t have any powers” Batman can’t do what he does without an unrealistic amount of strength. Think about it. He sleeps like... never. He falls from ridiculous heights, takes serious beatings every night, and then.... just keeps going? Let’s be honest. He has super strength.

We like things and people that are strong, and we’re even more likely to trust strong things rather than weak things. Think about it. What

would we rather use if we're trying to hold something together, masking tape or duct tape? [Opportunity for students to respond.] I realize that it depends on what we're trying to hold together, but generally if we really want something to be nice and strong, we use duct tape, or something stronger if we have it. The same idea goes for chairs. Would you rather sit on a baby rocker or an adult sized couch? [Opportunity for students to respond.] I'm much more likely to sit in any adult size chair. Not only because it's more comfortable, but also because it's less likely to break!

And God. Well, God is really strong. But He's not the kind of strong man that bullies or abuses other people. He uses His strength to perfection, and at perfect times.

Let's see what the Bible says about God's strength and flip to **Proverbs 3:34 (NIV)**

He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.

God is so strong, and He stands against the proud. God mocks the proud and shows favor to the humble, and the oppressed. The person who wrote this proverb didn't write this because they wished God was like this. They had evidence that God was like this. Who here has heard about Moses and the 10 plagues God sent against the Egyptians? Egypt, at this time, was the most powerful kingdom in the world. They had the money, the military, and the people. Israel on the other hand, were slaves to the Egyptians. So, God promised to bring freedom to His oppressed people and He achieved it by sending Moses to Egypt, where then, God performed 10 miracles, in the form of plagues, against Egypt. Does anyone know all ten plagues? [Give students some time to answer. If any student knows them all, they deserve a prize!]

We won't get into all 10 plagues, but did you know that God performed these 10 signs for a good reason, and not just because it



(Leader note: This small group time is designed to have students make connections between different passages of Scripture. You'll notice that the passage below was not talked about during the teaching time but is still relevant to the topic of the night.)

Read **Joshua 21:43-45 (NIV)**

So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hands. Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

How does this connect to what was shared?

What are some other promises in the Bible God follows through with?

Why is it important for us to hear these verses?

What does this passage tell me about God?

What does this passage tell me about people?

What are some promises I've seen God fulfill in my life?

How does this change what I talk to God about?

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