

# if God is

## 3. If God is Powerful

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Exodus 4.1-17

*8 Then the Lord said, 'If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. 9 But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.'*

- Have you ever held the view that God is all powerful so He must control everything? How did (or does) that affect your response to Him? Why is it damaging for us to believe that everything that happens is part of God's plan?
- In Exodus 4 God gives Moses options – three different miraculous signs, in case one or two don't convince. He allows Moses to change his plans and bring Aaron in as spokesman. Do you like this insight into a God who is both 'If' and 'So'? Or does the idea of a God who leaves things 'open' worry you?
- Read 1 Samuel 15.10-11. How is it possible for God to regret something He did? What does this tell us about the limits of God's control and the extent of our freedom to choose how we live and how we respond to Him.
- God is a brilliant chess master responding wisely to whatever moves human beings make, rather than controlling everything through brute force. Does this analogy work for you? How does this affect our view of human suffering and a loving God? (Look at Romans 8.28-39 for more on this.)
- 2 Chronicles 7.14. *'If my people...'* Does this mean that if we don't pray then God won't do the things He's promised? How does this change the way you view prayer? Why do you think God chooses to act in this way?

Big Idea: 'God is not just a 'Say So' God, he's also an 'If' God. He adapts, he's affected and he answers when we call. He invites us to use our 'Say So', in partnership with him, to impact our world.'

Pray in twos and threes. Bring before God the situations and people you know that need God's intervention. Pray for each other that we each grasp the amazing possibilities God has entrusted us with. Pray for the courage to take responsibility for bringing God's Kingdom where we are. Pray that we become people that pray more and see more answers to prayer.