

Fellowship Group Questions for *The Power of Redeeming Love*
Sermon #7 – *The Invisible Hand*

Share about the time that you played the “what if” game in the past tense (“What if I had _____”).

There are no “what ifs” with God. With God, there are no possible outcomes. Why?

Read Psalm 147:4-5. Because of space exploration by way of space crafts and powerful telescopes, we now know that many of the points of light that appear to our naked eye to be stars are actually other galaxies. There are thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of galaxies all filled with planets and stars of their own. Now think about Psalm 147:4-5 again. What thoughts come to your mind?

What does it mean when we say that God is sovereign?

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How does the idea of God’s sovereignty make you feel?

The word *providence* means “God’s guidance and direction over all things.” Within that definition is God’s omniscient and sovereignty which implies His care, provision and protection. It is a rich and full word. Why do you think that it is not a word that is used much anymore?

If there is no such thing as providence we can have no hope, why?

How does God’s providence show up in the story of Ruth?

Share about a time in your life when it seemed like God’s hand was against you and you discovered later that it was not.

How is that our poor, bad or even sinful choices don’t frustrate God’s plans?

How is God’s hand (providence) working in and around us another provision of His grace?

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Sermon #7 – *The Invisible Hand*

Share about the time that you played the “what if” game in the past tense (“What if I had _____”).

There are no “what ifs” with God. With God, there are no possible outcomes. Why? **Because God knows everything (He’s omniscient)**

Read Psalm 147:4-5. Because of space exploration by way of space crafts and powerful telescopes, we now know that many of the points of light that appear to our naked eye to be stars are actually other galaxies. There are thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of galaxies all filled with planets and stars of their own. Now think about Psalm 147:4-5 again. What thoughts come to your mind?

What does it mean when we say that God is sovereign? **It means that He is in total control.**

How does the idea of God’s sovereignty make you feel?

The word *providence* means “God’s guidance and direction over all things.” Within that definition is God’s omniscient and sovereignty which implies His care, provision and protection. It is a rich and full word. Why do you think that it is not a word that is used much anymore?

If there is no such thing as providence we can have no hope, why? **because we can’t know if what we read in the Bible about future events here on earth and for our personal future in heaven is assured. If God is not all knowing, if he is not sovereign, if he is not guiding things toward a specific goal than we can’t know that what the Bible says will happen will in fact happen.**

How does God’s providence show up in the story of Ruth?

- Providence brought Naomi and Ruth to Bethlehem at the right time (Ruth 1:25)
- Providence brought Ruth to the Boaz’s field (Ruth 2:3)
- Providence guided Naomi’s timing to instruct Ruth on the proposal (Ruth 3:1)
- Providence brought the nearest relative (*goel*) to the city gate at the right time (Ruth 4:1)

Share about a time in your life when it seemed like God’s hand was against you and you discovered later that it was not.

How is that our poor, bad or even sinful choices don’t frustrate God’s plans? **Read Romans 8:28-29. It says that God causes everything to work together for good, that includes our choices—poor, bad and even sinful.**

How is God’s hand (providence) working in and around us another provision of His grace? **Romans 6:23 tells us that because of sin we deserve death, separation from God. Anything beyond what we deserve is grace.**