

# Growing Courageous for Jesus



**growing courageous** *for Jesus* | Wagga Rd, Aug-Sep 2023

In 'growing courageous for Jesus' we will be learning about the following statement

**God is the one and only, who is sovereign over all, for our good**

In this little series we're going to think about a conviction that the Bible teaches us to hold. Then we'll consider a popular challenge to this conviction and how we can give a competent Gospel answer to it. Finally, we'll think about the courageous character we need for speaking up. In our discussion groups we will focus on

This then is the structure for each Bible talk:

1. a conviction to hold
2. a competent answer
3. a courageous character

and the series will run like this:

**week 1** - God is

1. a conviction to hold = God is (Genesis 1.1a)
2. a competent answer to the challenge: 'We can't know if God is!'
  - a. God speaks through his creation (Romans 1)
  - b. God speaks through his servants (Hebrews 1)
  - c. God speaks through his Son (Hebrews 1)
3. a courageous character: student (2 Timothy 2.14-26, 3.10-4.5)

**week 2** - God is the one and only (Isaiah 45.18-25; Acts 17.16-34)

1. a conviction to hold = God is the one and only
2. a competent answer to the challenge of the many: many Gods... many truths
  - a. many gods = no gods (rival powers not absolute power)

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- i. in the Bible rival gods and powers are thwarted
  - b. many truths = no truths (relative truth vs absolute truth)
    - i. God decides what's true and false
- 3. a courageous character: guardian

**week 3** - God is the one and only, who is sovereign over all (Judges 21; Isaiah 45.1-13; Romans 9.14-24)

- 1. a conviction to hold = God is the one and only, who is sovereign over all
- 2. a competent answer to the challenge: No-one can tell me what to do > autonomy
  - a. God can tell us what to do
  - b. It is better for us when we do what God wants us to do
- 3. a courageous character: servant > ambassador

**week 4** - God is the one and only, who is sovereign over all, for our good (Luke 10.25-37, 1 Peter 1.6-12; 4.12-19; Romans 8.18-39)

- 1. a conviction to hold = God is the one and only, who is sovereign over all, for our good
- 2. a competent answer to the question: How can God be unstoppable and good and yet allow suffering?
  - a. In Jesus God enters our suffering to save us
  - b. God powerfully uses suffering to work good for us and in us
  - c. God is all powerful (omnipotent) which means he is unstoppable. He can allow evil and suffering and remain good because he doesn't let them win but rather puts them to work for his good purposes and our good
- 3. a courageous character: neighbour > continue to do good