

PARADOX PART 1

SALVATION

MAIN POINT:

**God sovereignly gave man free will
Free will ends where His sovereignty
begins**

EXPLORATION:

1. Discuss the meaning of the word “paradox”. Paradox- “Something that is made up of two opposite things that seem impossible but is actually possible”. Try to name some examples of a paradox.
2. Ask some of the following thought provoking questions to begin a discussion on how God’s sovereignty and man’s free will seem to be paradoxical ideas.
 - Why should I pray if God has a plan?
 - Did God choose me or did I choose Him?
 - If I live recklessly and die, do I really have a God appointed time to die?
 - Did I pick this shirt or did God?
 - Does God have a spouse for me or do I need to find her?
 - Does God have a plan or do I just find my way
3. Read John 6:65, Romans 8:30, Ephesians 1:4-5 and Ephesians 1:11. Discuss how these verses show God’s sovereign role in our salvation. *(Context Clues- Read these verses and try to discuss them for what they say. Do not get carried away by rabbit trail discussions that go beyond the verse to what they may infer. The point here is not to start a theological debate, but to point out that God has a major role in our salvation and relationship with Him).*
4. Read John 1:12, John 3:16, Romans 10:9-10, and Romans 10:13. Discuss how these verses show that man has a definite part in receiving salvation. *(Context Clues-Clues- Read these verses and try to discuss them for what they say. Do not get carried away by rabbit trail discussions that go beyond the verse to what they may infer. The point here is not to start a theological debate, but to point out that man does have a part in receiving salvation. In no way does this mean that we are somehow responsible for our salvation. Christ’s finish work on the cross is the only thing that can save us. But these verses clearly show we must believe and receive to accept that salvation.)*

APPLICATION:

1. Read I John 4:19. This verse indicates how God first loved us. Have individuals testify to how this process worked out in their life.
2. Read Philippians 2:12-13. Discuss how this verse describes both man’s part and God’s part in our salvation and sanctification. Have group members give some examples of how this works out in their lives.
3. Have each group member evaluate their own salvation and spiritual growth. Is there a balance between God’s part and their part? *(Context Clues- for example....are you expecting for God to grow you spiritually, but you are not reading your Bible or praying? Or are you working yourself to a frazzle trying to grow spiritually, but you are not trusting God to give you’re the strength or work this process at His pace?)*
4. Pray for the members of the group to do their part in growing in God, while trusting that God is over the whole process and gives them the strength to follow Him.

