

# FRET

## SHARE

What are two things you look forward to in the week to come?

## SEEK

### Fret and the Future

In the book, “The Shack,” there is a scene where the main character (Mackenzie) and Jesus are having a conversation. Jesus asks Mackenzie to share his thoughts about the future. One thought after another, Mackenzie shares his concerns for *this* and for *that*, with nothing positive to say. In a powerful moment, Jesus reveals to Mackenzie that not once was He mentioned in Mackenzie’s thoughts about the future. Perhaps this was the reason for Mackenzie’s concerns.

Indeed, the future can be a terrifying place if Jesus is absent from it. The same can be said for the present moment, too. We’re talking about the “sovereignty” of God, that is, His trustworthy rule and power over all things. God’s sovereignty has always been part of the Christian faith, but as we’ve all experienced, it is sometimes difficult to truly believe and live. Sometimes God is replaced with other pleasures or coping mechanisms that come up empty. Sometimes God is avoided completely. Sometimes His sovereignty is forgotten. But to trust in God’s sovereignty is such a relief! Imagine a life that wholeheartedly trusts in God!

Isaiah 46.5-11 talks about this. God makes the point that people have tried different coping strategies, worship, and pleasures apart from Him, and they all come up empty. If you worship dead things that cannot give you life, you will reflect what you worship. But “remember this,” God says. Remember how putting things in place of God lead to emptiness and false hope. “I am God, and there is no other,” He says. “My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.” And we know His loving and amazing purposes. Just imagine what life would look like in the complete and unwavering trust in God’s sovereignty!

# SEE

## FRET AND THE FUTURE

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SCENE FROM THE SHACK MENTIONED IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PARAGRAPH? WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE, DO YOU SEE JESUS THERE?

IF YOU HAD TO CHECK A BOX THAT SAID, "I TRUST IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY 100%" COULD YOU DO IT? WHY OR WHY NOT?

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE TURN TO INSTEAD OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY? WHY DO WE DO THIS?

CAN YOU IMAGINE YOUR LIFE COMPLETELY TRUSTING IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD? WHAT WOULD YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE? WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM LIVING THAT LIFE RIGHT NOW? HOW WOULD TRUSTING IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AFFECT YOUR FUTURE?

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another