

Alley Rundown - December 7-8, 2019

Bible Story: The Weary World Rejoices (The Coming Birth of John the Baptist) • *Luke 1:5-25; 57-80*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because anything is possible with God.

Key Question: What's the most amazing thing you've ever seen?

Memory Verse: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NIV)

CONNECT TIME: "Possible or Impossible?"

"Merry 'Not Quite Christmas,' and welcome to the Alley! Mmmmm, can you smell it? The smell of peppermint, hot apple cider, pine needles on a fresh Christmas tree, and the sweet scent of body odor? Oh, wait. Never mind. Before we get started with today's Bible story, let's play a game. Here's how it works—I'll give you a challenge. After I say the challenge, you'll tell me if the challenge is possible or impossible. Now, if you think the challenge is possible, I want to see you show me how it's done. So don't say something's possible unless you're ready to back it up. If you understand the instructions, say 'Christmas Cookies.' (*Pause for response.*)

"Alright, first up: Licking your elbow. Possible or impossible? (*Pause for response.*)

If kids say "Possible," ask one kid to try to prove it.

"Alright, that was . . . interesting. Next up: Talking while breathing in through your mouth. Possible or impossible? (*Pause for response.*)

If kids say "Possible," ask one kid to try to prove it.

"You know, technically, it is actually possible to do that. Fun fact: apparently, 1% of the population, mostly musicians, can actually do this. Anyways, next up: Touching your tongue to the bottom of your chin. Possible or impossible? (*Pause for response.*)

If kids say "Possible," ask one kid to try to prove it.

"Last one: Legend says that no man or woman has ever been able to successfully use their foot to kick themselves in the backside. But I want to know: what do you say? Possible or impossible? (*Pause for response.*)

If kids say "Possible," ask one kid to try to prove it.

"Full disclosure: I knew that last one was possible, I just wanted to see if you guys would actually do it. So uh, congratulations? You're all winners. Everyone, have a seat!"

Wait for kids to be seated.

Begin Rundown...

"Now those things may seem difficult, but they're still within the realm of possibility. I mean, there are some pretty flexible people out there who can do some wild stuff. But what happens when we face something that truly seems impossible? How can we face life with joy when things don't seem to be turning out the way we expected, and we don't see a way out of whatever we're going through? What do we do then? Well, I guess we could give up, but I'm pretty sure there's a better way. We might just need some help figuring out what that is."

"Thankfully, the writers of the Bible included all sorts of times when people faced something they thought was impossible. Let's check out our episode today and see what we can find out."

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:45)

“Wow, right? Can you imagine Zechariah just doing his thing in the Holy Place and being caught by surprise? I think surprise was an understatement. Luke tells us that he was terrified! But we can cut him a break; I’m sure anyone of us would have been terrified, too. But like so many stories of angels in the Bible, the angel tells Zechariah not to be afraid. Then he told Zechariah some incredible news.”

“(Read directly from Luke 1:13b-14, 16-17b) Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy, and you must call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you. His birth will make many people very glad . . . He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will prepare the way for the Lord,” (NIRV).

“The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth might seem so impossible to us, but God often uses the impossible to show us that He’s greater than any limit we can put on Him. The truth is God can still do the impossible.”

“God cares about YOU! He knows your name, your favorite song, what makes you scared, and what makes you smile. And not just for you—but for everyone in the world. That might seem impossible, but that’s how BIG God is.”

“Even on your worst day or when life is unexpected or nothing seems to be going right, you can have joy because of what Jesus did for us.”

“This week, remember that God cares about you. Even when things don’t always go our way, we can have joy by knowing that anything is possible with God. As you head back to small groups, think about this.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What’s the most amazing thing you’ve ever seen? Maybe it was the ocean or the mountains. Maybe it was a sunset you saw in your town. It could be you’ve seen someone do something you never thought was possible. Think about what you’ve seen. Why was it so amazing? And what could you learn about God from it?”

“If you’re having trouble thinking of something, don’t worry. You’ll have a chance to talk more about amazing things in Small Group. Before we head out though, let’s pray and thank God that He can do the impossible! Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard, lead offering, and then dismiss kids to Small Group.

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 3:00)

NOTE: No Worship Experience this Weekend due to Connect Time

Dismiss to Small Groups