

Alley SG—June 26th-28th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Fire on the Mountain (Elijah and the Prophets of Baal) • 1 Kings 18:16-46

Today's Bottom Line: God can do the impossible.

Today's Key Question: What seems impossible to you?

Monthly Memory Verse: *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.* Psalm 27:13 (NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Paper (1 per kid), markers or pens, mobile device

What You Do:

- Give each kid a sheet of paper and a marker or pen.
- Instruct kids to draw nine dots in a three-by-three dot grid.
- Challenge kids to connect all nine dots using only four lines without lifting their pencil from the paper.
 - For the solution, go to: <https://bit.ly/3dsnFGV>
- Then challenge them to connect the nine dots using only three lines.
 - For the solution, go to: <https://bit.ly/2ODkaCS>

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: Plastic Cup (1 per group), ping pong balls (10 per group), toilet paper roll (1 per group), floor tape

What You Do:

- Using floor tape, make an "X" about five to seven feet from the cup.
- Select a volunteer to stand on the "X" and tell the rest of the group to line up behind them.
- Allow kids to take turns to try to toss the ping pong ball into the cup. Remind kids they need to be standing on the "X" when they toss the ping pong ball.
- If a kid does toss the ping pong ball into the cup, replace the cup with a toilet paper roll.
- Ask if they think it is possible to toss a ping pong ball so it lands perfectly on top of the cardboard tube?
- Allow kids to take turns to try to toss the ping pong ball on to the tube.
- In the event that it does **LEGITIMATELY** happen, allow that kid to pick any item they desire from the Alley Shack.

What You Say:

"That last challenge was basically IMPOSSIBLE! There are a lot of things that seem impossible to me. (Give kids a few examples of things that are impossible to you, such as doing a cartwheel, throwing a football 40 yards, playing the piano, etc.) What seems impossible for me may not seem impossible for you. But there are times we all run across something that just seems impossible."

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask: What are some things that seem impossible to you?
 - Can you wiggle your ears?
 - Raise one eyebrow?
 - Curl your tongue? (*Allow kids to try. Some kids will be able to do these activities, but they will be impossible for others*)
- Challenge kids to try some of activities listed below (these should be impossible for everyone):
 - Paralyzed Finger (<http://bit.ly/2peoYze>):
 - Place a hand on the table.
 - Bend your middle finger in, toward your palm, so both knuckles are on the table.
 - With your middle finger bent, try lifting, one at a time, your thumb, your index finger, your ring finger and your pinky finger.
 - Can they do it? (*Kids won't be able to lift their ring finger.*)
 - Lift Your Foot:
 - Stand against a wall so their ankle, knee, hip, shoulder, and head are resting on the wall.
 - Without moving any part of their body from the wall, kids try to lift their foot that is not touching the wall.
 - Can they do it? If not, why? What happens when they move their head and shoulder off the wall? Can they move their foot now?
 - Figure 8
 - Sit in a chair and move your right leg counter-clockwise.
 - At the same time draw a figure eight with your finger in the air.
 - Can you do it? What happens?
 - Lick your elbow.

4. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Paper (1 per kid), scissors, mobile device, "Step Through Instructions" (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Review the Bible story with the group.
- Potential story discussion questions could be:
 - Who is Elijah? What's a prophet?
 - Why was there a drought?
 - There was a showdown on Mt. Carmel between God, who Elijah worshiped, and Baal, the false god King Ahab worshipped. What happened?
 - What did the prophets of Baal do? What did the false god, Baal, do?
 - What impossible things did God do on Mt. Carmel?

- Where did Elijah get his confidence to take on Ahab and the 450 prophets of Baal? (Encourage kids to explain their answers.)
- After you review the story, give each kid a piece of paper and scissors.
- Challenge them to do the impossible and to cut a hole in their paper in such a way that they can step through the hole.
- For a visual on how to do the “impossible,” refer to the “Step Through Instructions” Activity Page.
- Tell kids that with God, sometimes the impossible becomes possible. Sometimes it is something small that becomes possible, like stepping through a piece of paper or it is something momentous like what happened with Elijah on Mt Carmel.
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share with the group about a time when you faced an impossible situation. Maybe you and a friend were on the outs and reconciliation seemed impossible. Or maybe something related to the pandemic caused an impossible situation. Were you able to stay confident of God’s power, no matter the outcome? What truths or Scripture did you lean into during that time?)***

5. Discussion Questions

- When was a time you thought something was impossible and it wasn’t? Maybe your friends were in a fight, and you thought it was impossible the fight would ever end but it did. Or you thought it was impossible you would get a new bike and you did.
- What are some examples of times God/Jesus did things that seemed impossible?
- What seems impossible to you right now? What situation is going on in your life where it’d be really great if God intervened in a powerful way?
- What are some truths we know about God? How does it help to remind ourselves of these truths when we feel like we don’t have any say or control over something? *(This is an opportunity to review the discussions from week two – even when we don’t have control and we want things to change, we can trust God’s plan is the best way. We know God can do the impossible, but the impossible isn’t always in His plan. But we can still trust Him with our outcomes.)*

6. Pray and Dismiss