

City 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.

Monthly Memory Verse: Here is something I am still sure of. I will see the Lord's goodness while I'm still alive. Psalm 27:13 (*NirV*)

1. Crazy Cool Stories

What You Need: hand sanitizer, bean bag (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name.
- Direct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Ask the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Instruct the kids to toss a bean bag around the circle.
- When a kid holds the beanbag, direct them to tell the group about the coolest or craziest thing they've ever seen or done themselves.
- When everyone has had a turn, allow the bean bag tossing to continue as kids share more crazy, cool stories!

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: Floor tape

What You Do:

- Tape a ten-foot line on the floor.
- Instruct the group to stand on the line next to each other, spread out, and facing you.
- Read off a list of facts.
- If a kid thinks the fact is possible, direct them to take a step forward.
- If they think the scenario is impossible, direct them to take a step backward.
- Each time you read a scenario and kids answer, take time to look around and see how many kids think it is possible or impossible and ask a few kids to explain the choice they made.
- Direct the kids to step back onto the starting mark after each scenario.
- Continue until all scenarios are read.
- If time allows, let kids lead the game by coming up with their own possible or impossible scenarios.

Possible/Impossible Scenarios:

1. On the Japanese island of Yakushima, macaque monkeys are known to ride deer for transportation. (*possible*)
2. If you make a mistake using a pen, you can take the skin of a cucumber and slowly use it to erase the pen writing. (*possible*)
3. Antarctica is the only continent with no flies. (*impossible—but it is the only continent with no spiders!*)
4. Nutella® was invented after World War II because cocoa was rare and expensive so a baker created an alternative with hazelnuts and a smaller amount of cocoa. (*possible*)
5. Frogs can swallow with their eyes open. (*impossible—they can't!*)
6. Baboons have been known to kidnap puppies and raise them as pets. (*possible*)

7. A snail's mouth can contain over 25,000 teeth. (*possible*)
8. In the USA, there WAS a sports league for rock, paper, scissors competitions. (*possible—no longer in existence*)

What You Say:

“Wow! You guys did an awesome job making the right guesses. Some of those facts were pretty crazy and unbelievable. What scenario was the hardest for you to believe possible? (*Allow time for responses.*) **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we learned about someone who can always do the impossible! GOD!**”

3. True/False Review (no supplies needed)

True/False review questions

1. Israel was ruled by King Ahab in the time of our story. (*true*)
2. King Ahab wanted everyone to worship God, but the people of Israel only wanted to worship a false god. (*false—Ahab wanted everyone to worship Baal and even built a temple for this false god.*)
3. Elijah was a prophet God sent to Ahab to deliver a message that it was not going to rain. (*true*)
4. Although crops failed, rivers dried up, and the drought took place, God provided for Elijah. (*true*)
5. In the third year of the drought, God sent Elijah to talk to King Ahab, but Elijah decided not to go. (*false—Elijah did go.*)
6. Elijah asked King Ahab to bring all of the prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel. He asked Baal's prophets to prepare an altar for Baal and put a lamb on top of it. (*false—They put a bull on the altar.*)
7. When Elijah saw that Baal did not respond, he instructed everyone to see his altar he assembled for God. Elijah only put a bull on the altar and nothing else. (*false—He also told the Israelites to dump water on top of the altar and all around it, which made everything really wet.*)
8. Elijah called on God and asked that God would let all of them know that He is the one true God! Flames of fire fell down from the sky and burned up the wet wood and sacrifice. (*true*)
9. Many people fell on their faces, worshipping God. But the prophets of Baal tried to escape and were captured. (*true*)
10. Though there was no sign of rain, God sent rain for the first time in three years! (*true*)

4. God Is . . .

What You Need: “God Is” Activity Page (1 set per group), Situation Cards (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Scatter the set of attribute pages from the God Is page around your small group space.
- Give each team a set of “Situation” cards.
- Instruct the kids to pick a card from their stack, read it together as a team, and send one team member around the room to hunt for an attribute of God that would be helpful for the situation on their card.
 - For example, if their situation is that their dog is really sick, the card that says God is Healer is a good match.

- The matches are color coded. Most likely kids will notice this, but don't share that information with them at first.
- Don't make this a race, in order to give kids a chance to think about the matches they make.

What You Say:

"Isn't it awesome that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible**, no matter what we face? *(Guide kids to read a few of their match sets. Remind them that all of the things listed on the big sheets of paper make up who God is.)*

"I'm so thankful that we get to have a relationship with such a big God who is so many things for so many unique and specific stories. What are some other impossible situations your friends or family face?" *(Allow time for responses. Be sensitive to some kids sharing personal situations.)*

"These are all really great examples. Thank you so much for sharing! Sometimes we see God answer our prayers and work quickly. Other times, God takes longer than we want Him to, or He may have a completely different plan for our situation than we want.

[Bottom Line] "God can do the impossible, but when we don't see God work like we expect Him to, we also need to trust that God has a plan. God is still who He promises to be. He still works for good. It just means He has a plan and a story that we can't see or understand. No matter what big, impossible situation you or others you love may face, remind yourself that **you can trust God no matter what**, because He works for good in every impossible situation."

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Do:

- Pray with your kids.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You that nothing is impossible for You! Whether it's sending flames of fire from heaven, being in charge of the rain, or meeting us in our own difficult situations, there is nothing that is impossible for You. Help us remember to come to You and Your Word every time we see something impossible. Please help us help others see that You are the God of their impossible situations, too. We love You. We choose to trust You and proclaim the truth that **[Bottom Line] God can do the impossible**. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"