

City SG—December 4th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Breath of Heaven (Zechariah/Elizabeth and Gabriel/Mary) • *Luke 1:5-66*

Today's Bottom Line: Anything is possible with God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11 (NIRV)*

1. Jingle Bell Cup Challenge

What You Need: Plastic Cups (10 Red, 10 Green per group); jingle bells (50 of each color), timer (on leader's cell phone)

What You Do:

- Gather kids, standing in a circle, and give each kid a green cup and a red cup.
- Have kids put 5 red jingle bells **and** 5 green jingle bells into their **red** cup, then hold a cup in each hand.
- Tell them you will set your cell timer for 30 seconds, and they will need to get all the green jingle bells into their green cup and keep all the red jingle bells in their red cup—without touching the jingle bells with their hands—using only the cups.
- This is *nearly impossible*, so let kids try a few times but stop before frustration levels get too high. (*if by chance a kid does get the right jingle bells in the right cup, celebrate that feat!*)

What You Say:

"Did you feel that activity was impossible to do? (*Invite responses.*) Well, that's because it really IS *nearly impossible*. Could you do it if I gave you a minute to do it, or 5 minutes? (*Invite responses.*)

"We all have things in our lives that seem impossible. Maybe you're learning an instrument and it feels like you'll never be able to master it. Or no matter how hard you try, you can't seem to get on top of your grades. What are some of the things in your life that seem impossible? (*Invite responses.*) When you feel overwhelmed with the impossible, it's important to stop, take a deep breath, and think about how God has done something that seemed impossible in the Bible as well as in your life. Ask God to give you the courage and the strength to keep going. Remember, **[Bottom Line] anything is possible with God.**"

[Make It Personal] (Share an example of a time something seemed impossible for you and you prayed and asked God to help you get through it. How did it turn out? How did it make you feel to remember that [Bottom Line] anything is possible with God?)

*(If you have time **after** going through the lesson, they can play more games with the jingle bells, like putting all the bells in a pile, each kid chooses one cup color, and see how many can they grab of their color from the pile in 15 seconds, the one with the most wins, etc.)*

2. Guess Who?

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: “Storylines” cards in bag (1 Set per Group); “Storylines Answers” (1 per group), 11X17 cardstock (1 per Group per service), marker, and wall tape

What You Do:

- On the 11X17 card stock, draw a large gift box with a ribbon.
- Divide the box into three sections.
- Assign one section to each of the three people from today’s story by writing their name at the top of a column: Zechariah, Elizabeth, or Mary.
- Tape the gift box cardstock to the wall so the group can see it OR put it on the floor and have the kids sit around it.
- Instruct the kids to take turns pulling a card out of the bag and reading it out loud to the group.
 - **Kids can hand you the card, and you can read it aloud to the Group.**
- Encourage the kids to tape/place their card under the character they think the story applies to. (Use the answer page to check their answers if needed.)
- Continue playing until all cards have been used.

What You Say:

“What surprised you about today’s story? (*Invite responses.*) It’s a crazy and amazing story! While God’s people were captive, God spoke through prophets about the great Rescuer God would send! But then, for hundreds of years, the people didn’t hear from God. I imagine that God’s people must have wondered if God still loved them and had a plan for them. Hundreds of years later, we see how God’s rescue plan played out.

“Mary thought she wasn’t ready to have a baby, and Elizabeth thought she was too old to have a baby! Both ended up having one. Why did it become possible for them? (*Invite responses.*) That’s right! It was because of God! Everyone who heard the news about Elizabeth and Zechariah having a baby was filled with amazement. They wondered what the baby would grow up to do because God made the impossible happen.

“I’m thankful that because of who God is, I don’t have to be afraid or sad about the things that seem totally impossible. **[Bottom Line] Anything is possible with God.**”

3. Christmas Cheer

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Together, look up and read the memory verse, Luke 2:11, with the navigation tips below.

Finding verses with 1st through 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the table of contents in the front. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find “Luke” in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Luke starts with the letters L-U. When the kids find Luke, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Luke. Help the kids find the page. When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 11 in chapter 2.

- Reread the memory verse out loud together.
- Ask if any of the kids would like to read the verse out loud or if anyone has it memorized, let them say it for the group.
 - Kindergartners and first graders may not be confident enough to read sentences out loud, but it's okay to ask and give them the opportunity to try.
- Divide your kids into two groups.
- Direct the kids to review the memory verse and come up with motions, a song, or a cheer to remember it.
- After they finish, invite each group to show off the motions, song, or cheer for the other group.

What You Say:

“Those were awesome! You guys are so creative. Today in our Bible story, we heard what happened BEFORE Jesus was born. Have you ever heard any stories from your family about before you were born? *(Allow kids time to answer and share.)* Our memory verse is all about proclaiming the good news that Jesus was born! We can remember that **[Bottom Line] anything is possible with God.**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Index cards and pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card and a pen.
- Invite the kids to write one word/draw something on the index card that describes how it makes them feel knowing that God can do the impossible.
- Invite the kids to interject the words they wrote/pictures they drew as you close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You that we don't have to worry because we know that we can come to You with anything that seems impossible and You promise to be with us and help us through it. Knowing that **[Bottom Line] anything is possible with God** makes us feel *(invite the kids to insert what they wrote on their index cards)*. Help us remember how You did something that seemed impossible by sending Your Son to be our Savior. It's in Your name we pray, amen.”