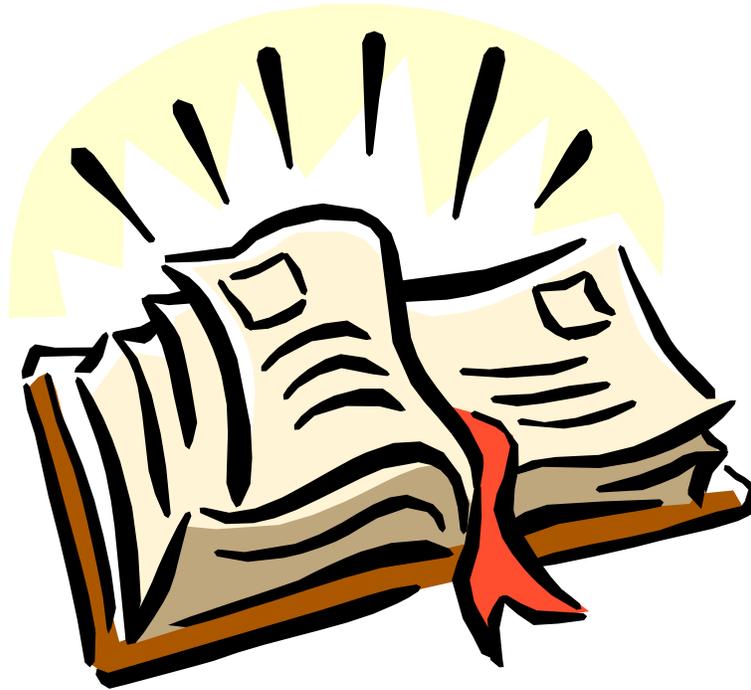


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Zacharias and Elizabeth

THEME: God can do the impossible.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:5-25



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions (five per week) for children and their families through which we hope to reinforce Sunday's lesson, provide ideas for the application of God's Word, and encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. Since the age of your child will affect how they respond to the content, we suggest you make them age appropriate by adding your own ideas.

In the lesson this week, we looked at **Luke 1:1-25** and learned, "**God can do the impossible.**" We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. Zacharias and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist, were too old to have children, but God chose them to be the parents of the man who would be the forerunner of Jesus. What a privilege! Though at first, Zacharias couldn't believe the news that they would be parents and that their child would have a special calling, God was completely faithful and did exactly what He said He would do! God will make possible impossible things in our lives if we will only believe and trust in Him.

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

Child of Promise

Text: **Genesis 21:1** - " And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken."

Also read Genesis 21:1-8

Have you ever heard a story that seemed so impossible that you thought it was actually funny? It sounded like there was no way for that story to happen. How could you believe such a silly story? Abraham's wife, Sarah, heard a story that she had a hard time believing.

One day, the LORD appeared to Abraham and told him that Sarah was going to have a son. God had already promised to Abraham and Sarah that they would begin a great nation; but, that promise had come many years ago; and Sarah was barren—in other words, she was unable to have children. Though Sarah wanted to have a child, she just kept getting older and older; and, finally, she thought it would never happen. So, when Sarah overheard the conversation between the Lord and Abraham, she thought that it was so impossible that she began to laugh inside. She wondered, "How could this impossible thing happen?"

But, there is nothing too hard for God! God will always keep His Word! Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was about 90. Could you imagine them having a brand new baby at that age? Neither could they! But God made possible the very thing that seemed impossible to them. He'll do the same for you and I as we trust in Him.

- What "impossible" things has the Lord done in your family's life?
- How do reading stories like the one about Abraham and Sarah help you to trust the Lord?
- When you need to trust God to help you even when things look impossible, will you?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Barren: Not able to have children.

Impossible: Something that seems like there is no possible way that it can happen apart from the Lord.

Day Two

Let's See What the Lord Will Do!

Text: 1 Samuel 14:6b - "For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few."

Also read 1 Samuel 14:1-15

The Lord will use us in amazing ways when we let Him! In 1 Samuel 14:1-15, the Israelites and the Philistines were at war. Jonathan, the son of King Saul, determined that he and his armor bearer would take on the entire army of the Philistines if God confirmed that was what He wanted them to do. Sounds pretty impossible, doesn't it? But Jonathan knew that God could do the impossible.

Jonathan told his armorbearer, "Nothing restrains the Lord." In other words, "There is nothing that keeps the Lord from doing what He wants to do." Whenever we look at a situation and understand that nothing will keep the Lord from doing what He wants to do, it helps us to trust in Him. There are many promises in the Bible for God's children, and there is nothing that will keep the Lord from making them happen in our lives.

Jonathan also said, "the Lord can save by many or by few." It doesn't take an army to do what God wants to have done. God gave two men, Jonathan and his armorbearer, victory over the Philistine army—two against an army! When seen through our eyes, we can look at problems in our lives and think that they are impossible situations. But, with God, nothing is impossible. He can save us with the help of many people or just a few. He can save us when there seems to be no one or nothing else to help. Jonathan trusted God, and God gave Him a great victory over his enemies. As you trust God and step out to do what He wants, God will do great things in and through your life.

- How did the armorbearer react to what Jonathan wanted to do? (see verse 7)
- Is God better able to help His people win a battle with an army than He is with only a few people?
- Does knowing that nothing restrains the Lord help you to trust in Him for what seems impossible in your life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Armorbearer:

A helper that would carry the armor and weapons for the king, his sons, or other soldiers.

Restrain:

To keep from doing something.

Camels and Needles

Text: Luke 18:27 - "But He said, 'The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.'"

Also read Luke 18:18-27

One day a rich, young ruler came to Jesus and asked what he needed to do in order to inherit eternal life. He was a good man, and he told Jesus that he had always lived according to God's laws. Yet, Jesus knew there was still something missing. He told him to sell everything, give to the poor, and come and follow Him. The rich, young ruler was very sad, for he was attached to all of his money and the things that he owned. Jesus knew that this was the thing that was keeping the young ruler from following Him.

This young man, rich and powerful, probably felt he had "everything" going for him. When Jesus asked him to sell everything and give to the poor, it was just too much for him to handle. How could he give up so much? So, the rich young ruler walked away sadly and even more sadly, without eternal life. Jesus saw the man walk away and said that it is very hard for those who are attached to their money and things to enter His kingdom. In fact, He said that a camel could go through the eye of a needle easier than for rich people to enter the kingdom! Why? Riches can make a person feel safe, powerful, and comfortable. Many who have riches begin to trust in their riches instead of God; sadly, riches become more important in their heart than their relationship with God.

Some of the people who heard Jesus immediately said, "Who then can be saved?" Then Jesus said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." God is able to *open our eyes* to our need for Him, rich or poor. He is able to remove any barrier or obstacle that would keep us away from Him--whether it is our wealth, pride, or bad habits. The Bible says all who call upon the Lord will be saved. Nothing is impossible for God.

- Why did the rich young ruler not want to follow Jesus?
- How can man, blinded by his wrongdoing (sin), come to God?
- Pray for others who are allowing wealth, pride, or bad habits to keep them from Jesus.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Possible: Able to happen.
Riches: Money and valuable things.

Jesus and the Impossible

Text: John 10:17 - "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again."

Also read John 10:11-18.

Jesus did a lot of things that were impossible. But, one of the most amazing things is the fact that he rose again after dying. We call this the Resurrection! Jesus laid down His life (died) and, then took His life back again (rose)--something that only Jesus could do!

Death is something we cannot avoid. Unless the Lord returns in our lifetimes, everyone who is now living will die. But, when Jesus died on the cross and then rose again, a couple of things happened: He conquered sin, *and* He conquered death! In other words, because Jesus took the punishment for our sin on the cross, we who believe in Him are forgiven; sin no longer has power over us and death can no longer have control over us. Those of us who believe in Jesus will now live forever with Him. We will be given new bodies prepared for life forever. Because Jesus can take something completely impossible and make it possible, we don't have to be afraid of death!

- What does Jesus' resurrection (coming back from being dead) mean to you?
- Knowing Jesus' power, how does this help you to not be afraid?
- Think of some other times in the New Testament when Jesus did the impossible.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'" John 11:25

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Resurrection: Coming back to life after being dead.
Power: Ability to do something.

Mission Possible

Text: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Also read Mark 6:32-44.

The Disciples were certainly in a tough spot. It was late in the day, and there were so many people who had come to hear Jesus teach. The disciples were worried that the people would become hungry for dinner, so they told Jesus He should send the crowds away to go home and eat. But Jesus turned to them and said, "You give them something to eat." The disciples were surprised. They responded, "Do you want us to go and buy enough bread to feed everyone?" Jesus said, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." After checking, the Disciples found they had only five loaves and two fish.

This certainly wasn't going to be enough food to feed over 5,000 people! It seemed like an impossible situation for the disciples. But, they brought to Jesus everything they had—five loaves and two fish—and the whole multitude of people were fed. God works miracles today in our lives. We all have something to offer the Lord—ourselves! We may not feel we are offering Him much to work with, but God is able to multiply and bless our offering, just like the loaves and fishes.

The Bible doesn't just say, "I can do all things." But it goes on to say, "through Christ who strengthens me." We can never accomplish great things by ourselves, just like the Apostles could never feed all of those people by themselves. But when we offer ourselves to Jesus, miracles can take place. We can do all things through Jesus. We can accomplish any mission He gives us because He "strengthens" us.

- How do you think the Disciples reacted when all of the sudden all of this food appeared?
- How does knowing that you "can do all things through Jesus" help you to live for Him?
- What are some things that you take to Jesus and ask Him for help with?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week when you pray, thank the Lord for doing the impossible many times and in many ways. Ask Him to help you to trust in Him in all things. If you have any needs that seem to be impossible, ask Him to help you with them, for "Nothing is impossible with God!"

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God."

Third Grade and Above

"And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God."

Luke 1:16