

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Nothing is impossible with God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will identify one thing they have a hard time believing God can help them with.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7, The Birth of Isaac

MEMORY VERSE:

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Will there one day be people living on Mars? It's never happened before, but that doesn't make it impossible! Abraham saw that God can make the impossible happen when his son Isaac was born.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the faith to believe in the impossible.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

*"Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me."
Psalm 119:105 (NirV)*

LARGE GROUP:

Choose three kids from the audience. Have each one "sing" the memory verse in a different musical style - country, hip-hop, oldies, opera, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SKIT

THE ASTRONAUTS: LIFE ON MARS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Astronaut suits

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M

CHARACTERS:

Mick and Dwayne - Astronauts

Mick and Dwayne enter in their space suits and helmets.

DWAYNE: Well, here we are.

MICK: Yep!

DWAYNE: We are the first men to set foot on Mars.

MICK: Yep!

DWAYNE: Think about it, Mick. Think about all the people who dreamed of being here, and we get to be the first.

MICK: Yep!

DWAYNE: What do you think, Mick? Tell me, what do you think about living here on Mars?

MICK: Well, it's kind of boring.

DWAYNE: Boring?? Mick, we're on Mars!

MICK: I know we're on Mars. You know what else is in Mars? Nothing! There's no Taco Bell. There's no cable TV. There are no video games.

DWAYNE: But it's Mars, bro!

SKIT

MICK: It's boring, bro! I'm here five minutes and I'm thinking, what's on TV?

DWAYNE: I guess it is kind of dull for two guys raised on Earth.

MICK: Don't get me wrong, Dwayne, it's beautiful and amazing. But what happens when we get the urge to drink an Icee? There's not an Icee machine for thousands of miles!

DWAYNE: No there's not. But one day, there could be.

MICK: You think so?

DWAYNE: Hey, if humankind can send two guys like us up here, surely they can put in a convenience store with an Icee.

MICK: And a movie theater? And a Taco Bell? And a church?

DWAYNE: Funny you say church, because I've always believed, with God, anything is possible.

MICK: Yeah, you're right. God was always doing things that seemed impossible in the Bible.

DWAYNE: He's done the impossible in my life many times.

MICK: Mine too.

DWAYNE: I dunno, Mick. Maybe one day there will be a convenience store with an Icee machine up here. Maybe there will be life on Mars. Regardless if that ever happens, I know I can trust God to do amazing things in my life.

MICK: You said it, brother. Now let's get back to Earth. I really want an Icee.

DWAYNE: Already? We just got here!

They exit.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A Rubick's Cube

Note: You do not have to solve the cube for this lesson, but if you have a volunteer or someone in church who can quickly solve the puzzle, use them!

Life can sometimes get mixed up. Just like this cube, it seems no matter what we do, things don't get any better. We think we have the solution. We think we know what's going to work. But our plans fail, and we're left thinking, "How are we ever going to fix this?"

Sometimes God allows us to get into those impossible situations. He doesn't do it to frustrate us, but to teach us something. With God, all things are possible. With God, we can get life straightened out. God knows what we need before we need it, and he knows how to make it happen. And God isn't limited by human imagination or ability! When God decides to do a miracle, the impossible just happens.

When life seems impossible, when you don't know where to turn, turn it over to Jesus. Put it in God's hands, and let him set things right. God is always doing the impossible, and if you trust him, he will do a miracle for you too.

LARGE GROUP GAME

APPLE STACKS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Apples

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game, and give them a dozen apples to work with. The two players will race to see who can be first to build a tower out of six apples. It may seem impossible at first, but it is doable, and the winner will get a prize.

VARIATION:

Make this a Minute To Win It game, where one player must stack five or six apples in a tower before time runs out.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God can do the impossible in our lives.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Nothing is impossible with God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will identify one thing they have a hard time believing God can help them with.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7, The Birth of Isaac

INTRO:

Could people live on Mars one day? That's a question men and women asked long before we ever sent a man into space. Back in the early 1900s, a man named Edgar Rice Burroughs wrote an entire series of books about John Carter, a Civil War soldier who traveled to Mars and became a great hero. His stories inspired the creation of Superman, Flash Gordon, and even Star Wars!

What seemed impossible in Edgar Rice Burroughs' day doesn't seem so impossible today. Back then, the idea of traveling into space seemed an impossibility, but advancements in rocket science and other technologies have allowed us to send people to space many times over. We have even sent men to the moon and back!

Right now, there are astronauts living and working in space for months at a time in the International Space Station. That's another dream that seemed nearly impossible only a few decades ago. But the more those astronauts study life in space and the more we learn about space, the idea of putting human colonies on the moon and even Mars doesn't seem all that impossible!

Humankind has done many things that were once thought impossible. Ships have sailed around a world that people once thought was flat. People overcame gravity by inventing air travel. We've covered distances faster than ever thanks to the invention of the combustion engine and cars. We made technology once thought to be the stuff of science fiction - like hand-held devices that allowed us to wirelessly talk and even watch TV - into real life!

As much as we've used technology to solve these challenges, there are still things in this world humans cannot do. We can't defeat the laws of nature. We can't change the human heart. We can't do many things that we still deem impossible.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Thankfully, when life throws one of these impossible challenges at us, we have someone we can turn to. We have God.

In today's story, we're going to read about something Abraham once thought impossible. We're going to read how God fulfilled his promise to a man and woman too old to have children, that they would be a family!

READ GENESIS 18:1-15, 21:1-7

MAIN POINT:

Abraham was an old man when God called him to travel into the wilderness. God promised Abraham that even though he was old, he would be the father of a mighty nation. Abraham believed because he had faith, but Sarah, who was also very old, just laughed when she heard God's promise.

Imagine both of their surprise when the prediction the visitors made came true! Even though they were old, God gave them a child of their own. That child, Isaac, had two children, Esau and Jacob. God would change Jacob's name to Israel, and through his twelve children, God raised up the nation of Israel!

God can do things we think are impossible. When all hope seems lost, when our own intelligence and skill just won't do, we can trust God to do miracles for us.

DRIVE IT HOME:

When we have faith in Christ, we can see miracles take place. God can change the heart of a bully. He can bring peace to a family in turmoil. He can bring healing to the sick. God just asks us to pray and believe that he has the power to answer our prayer no matter how impossible our problem may seem.

Perhaps the greatest illustration of what this means comes from one of the space stories I mentioned earlier. In the Empire Strikes Back (Star Wars, Episode 5), Luke Skywalker becomes upset when his space ship sinks into the swamp. Yoda tells him to raise the spaceship with the Force, but Luke tells him it's impossible.

Does anyone remember what happens next? Yoda does the impossible! Yoda's faith in the Force causes the ship to rise easily out of the swamp! Of course the Force is just pretend, but God, who we put our faith in is very real!

I don't know what miracle you need this morning, but I know that God is already working on the solution. God can do what we think is impossible. He's just waiting for us to believe in Him.

One day soon it may happen. We may send men and women to Mars not just for a visit, but to be permanent settlers on another planet. Another impossible dream made possible.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

But long before that happens, God will have done countless miracles for those who believe in Him.

Miracles still happen, and God loves doing the impossible. Give God your impossible situation today, and expect a miracle to happen!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the faith to believe in the impossible.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one big or impossible thing you would like to do?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalms 119:105

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Try to get some balloons to defy gravity. Take some ordinary balloons, inflate them, and use static electricity to make them stick to the wall by rubbing them in your hair and placing them by the wall.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

Who came to visit Abraham?

What did they tell Abraham would happen?

What did Sarah do when she heard about the baby?

What happened a year after the visitors appeared?

Is there something in your life that you have a hard time believing God can help with?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to put our faith completely in you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one big or impossible thing you would like to do?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalms 119:105

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Try to get some balloons to defy gravity. Take some ordinary balloons, inflate them, and use static electricity to make them stick to the wall by rubbing them in your hair and placing them by the wall.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

Who do you think the visitors were who visited Abraham and Sarah?

Why did Sarah laugh when she heard about the baby?

What happened a year after the visitors appeared?

Do you believe that miracles still happen?

Is there something in your life that you have a hard time believing God can help with?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to put our faith completely in you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

_____ visitors came to see Abraham.

THREE

The visitors told Abraham that he and his wife would have a _____.

BABY

When Sarah heard the prediction about the baby, she _____.

LAUGHED

About a _____ after the visitors came, Sarah had a baby.

YEAR

If we have _____, God can do miracles in our lives.

FAITH

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: LIVING IN SPACE



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:
Will there one day be people living on Mars? It's never happened before, but that doesn't make it impossible! Abraham saw that God can make the impossible happen when his son Isaac was born. Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7, The Birth of Isaac



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:
Has God ever done a miracle for you? Share with your kids some time that you saw God do what you thought was impossible.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Sarah laugh when she was told she would have a baby?
- How were Abraham and Sarah able to have a baby at their old age?
- Do you think God still does miracles?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

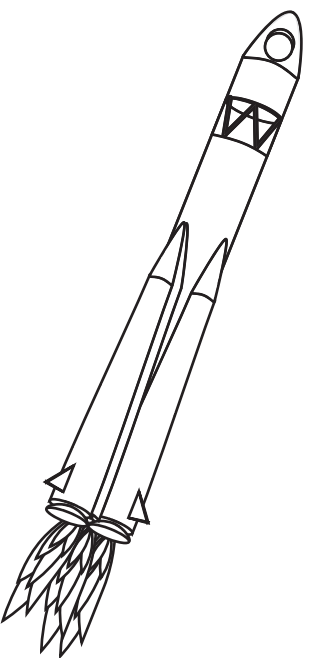
"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)



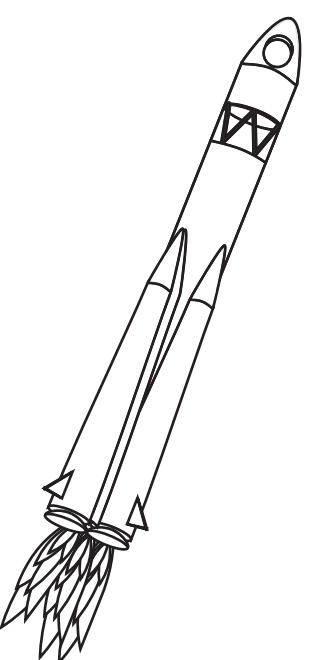
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

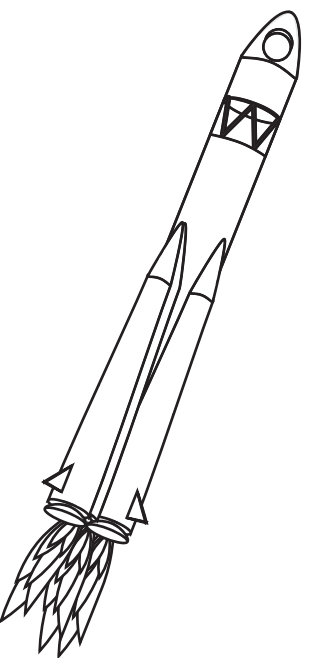
Pray with your kids this week for your family members and friends. Pray for anyone needing help or healing, and ask God to do the impossible. Pray with your kids, expecting to see miracles.



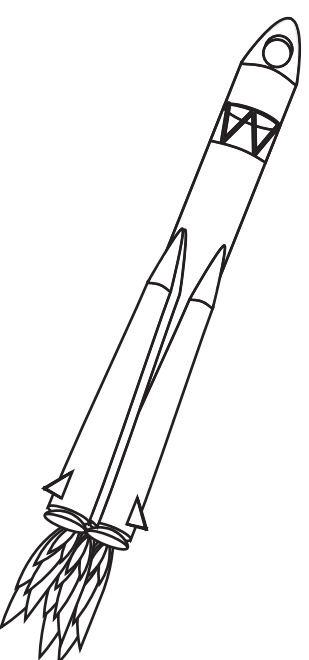
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids draw a picture of what they think life would look like if people lived on Mars.

Alternate Activity:

Give the kids each a straw. Set a glass of water in front of them. Show them that if they place the straw in the water and cover the end with their finger, the water in the straw won't drip out when they lift the straw from the glass. Tell the kids to share this amazing trick as a reminder that with God, all things are possible.