



Date: _____
Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Summer Year 3, Lesson 7

Everything is Possible for God— Especially Salvation

Primary Scripture: Matthew 19:16-26

Key Verse: Matthew 19:26, “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘It is impossible for people to save themselves, but everything is possible for God.’”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids continually anticipate growing older and stronger. They look forward to having more power and self-sufficiency. Though these are appropriate ambitions, kids need to know there are some things too hard for them to accomplish on their own. The biggest of these is accomplishing their salvation. Salvation is possible for God and he provided it through his Son, Jesus. We can leave everything and follow Jesus because of what he has given us.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Even our most ardent dedication is not enough to lead us to a perfect life. Jesus has given his life for us so that our salvation is possible.

Jesus in us: It is possible for God, the Holy Spirit, to fill our lives with the very presence of Jesus.

Jesus through us: In the midst of our weakness, Jesus' strength is made known. If he did for us the impossible in our salvation, will he not also work through us in extraordinary ways?

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: heavy set of barbells that a kid could not lift, a globe

Have a kid come forward and try and lift the barbells off the floor. Ask:

What is the heaviest thing in the world to lift? Can anyone lift it?

The kids will give various answers. The discussion should finally come to the answer that God is the only one who can lift the heavy things.

Hold a globe in the palm of your hand.

God is so powerful that he holds our whole planet in the palm of his hand. In fact, he holds our whole universe! He is the most powerful. We want to worship God because he will show us what is the most powerful thing he does in our lives.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies: barbells, firefighter's hat

Let's talk about the most powerful thing God can do. There is something else that is too heavy for us to lift and it is not just these barbells. It is our sin.

The Bible says that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. No one is righteous, not even one. No one can work and do enough good things to earn his way to heaven. Think about these barbells. None of you can lift them up and get rid of them. The same is true with our sin. We cannot lift up and get rid of our sin.

God wants to remove our sin from us. He sent his Son into the world to die for our sins. It is just like he picked up our sins and carried them out of this room.

I am going to carry these barbells out of the room, reminding us how Jesus removes our sin. When he went to the cross and died for us, Jesus took away every bad thing we have ever done.

Before I carry these barbells out, I think each one of us needs to talk to God and tell him about anything we have done that has not shown love to him or others. Tell him about your sin. Let's name some of our sins right now.

Take a few suggestions. Continue with prayer, announcing God's grace and forgiveness.

The Bible says it is impossible for man to save himself. *All* things are possible with God, though. Now I am going to carry these barbells out of this room to remind us of how Jesus took the sin of the world on himself and carried it away.

Put on a firefighter's hat.

Some hoses shoot water from fire trucks so hard that it takes six firefighters to hold the hose. If the water were aimed at that wall right there, it would knock the wall down. Is that the most powerful water? No, it is not. The most powerful water is ordinary water that is connected to God's promise in baptism. In baptism God says to you, "While you were still powerless, Jesus died for you." The water reminds us that God has washed away our sin. As we trust in him, we have the promise of forgiveness through Jesus our Savior.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: barbell or weight

Set a barbell or a weight in the offering basket. The barbell/weight will remind the kids as that offerings can be *powerful* gifts for God's kingdom. Talk about the mission project of the month.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“Hot Potato”

Supplies: cassette player, cassette with active music, potato for every six kids

Divide the kids into groups of six or seven. Have some active music playing as the kids gather in small circles and toss a potato around the group. When the music is stopped, the person who has the potato (or the person to whom the potato is traveling) is the person who sits out.

Play the game until there is one winner in each group. Then have all of the winners come together and play until there is only one winner out of the entire group. Have that person toss the potato in the air while the music plays. Obviously, that person will lose once the music stops and have to sit out.

Sometimes people may play “hot potato” with their spiritual lives. They may not ever think of what God wants of them. They may think they don’t need to pay any attention to God. When they think about God they just try to get him off their minds as quick as they can. They do not want to serve God. It is just like they are throwing the hot potato.

Other people believe that by doing enough good things they can earn God’s favor and go to heaven. That, too, is like a hot potato. Can anyone do enough good things to earn his way to heaven? No. People that believe this could end up losing out on God’s plan for salvation.

People that think this are playing a very risky game and are hoping they will not get caught. Just like in our game of hot potato, every person finally *does* get caught. Every person will have to face God, either when they die or when Jesus comes back.

What are we going to say to make sure we do not lose? What are we going to say is the reason why we should go to heaven? We will

learn about that today when we study the young man who loved riches more than God.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies: video, Animated Stories from the New Testament: Treasures In Heaven (Nest Entertainment)

Show the section of the video where the rich young ruler asks what he must do to enter heaven. This section begins immediately after Blind Bartimaeus says, "Jesus . . . He's coming."

Application:

Application 1:

Read and explain the key verse of the day, Matthew 19:26:

"Jesus looked at them and said, 'It is impossible for people to save themselves, but everything is possible for God.'"

Application 2:

Supplies: paper cutting trick from The Good News Visualized by Glenn C. Tompkins available from Doc Haley Gospel Magic Company (www.gospelmagic.com), 4 x 6-inch file card

On page thirteen of Glenn C. Tompkins' book is "Eye of the Needle," a simple cutout trick in which a kid is challenged to walk through a 4 x 6-inch file card.

The trick is an excellent way to illustrate the truth of Matthew 19. Be sure to point out that the greatest miracle and most powerful thing God does is to save us by sending his Son to take our sins. Because of Jesus, we do not want to put our riches or anything else in front of God. We need to trust God alone.

Application 3:

Supplies: 4 x 4-inch piece of paper, knife, potato, nonpermanent marker

A second gospel teaching point is to take a 4 x 4-inch sheet of paper and tell everyone that you can use the paper to divide a potato in half. Of course, the kids will think that this cannot be done.

The trick *can* be done. Write a person's name on the knife with a nonpermanent marker. Write the word "SIN" on the potato. Fold the paper in half, placing it on the edge of the knife. Now press the knife covered by the paper through the potato.

The paper by itself could never cut the potato in half. By ourselves we could never cut sin away. Because of Jesus, all things are possible. When we trust in him, we wrap ourselves around him and he can take away our sin or anything that keeps us from God.

Invite the kids to participate in the steps to know for sure they are saved and are going to heaven. Use these four steps.

- Admit that I am not strong enough by myself to earn heaven. I have sinned.
- I turn away from my sin and turn to God. (This is like the young ruler who was to turn away from the god of his riches.)
- I trust in Jesus who gave his life for me on the cross and rose again.
- I want to follow him with my life.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have kids come forward and tell about anything in their life that seemed impossible, yet God made possible.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Ask kids to tell God thank you for saving them and sending Jesus. Also encourage them to pray for things in their lives that may seem impossible but God can do.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- heavy set of barbells that a kid could not lift
- globe

The Power of the Cross:

- barbells
- firefighter's hat

Offering:

- barbell or weight

Learning Game:

- cassette player
- cassette with active music
- potato for every six kids

Bible Reading:

- video, *Animated Stories from the New Testament: Treasures In Heaven* (Nest Entertainment) www.nestfamily.com

Application 2:

- paper cutting trick from *The Good News Visualized* by Glenn C. Tompkins available from Doc Haley Gospel Magic Company (www.gospelmagic.com)
- 4 x 6-inch file card

Application 3:

- 4 x 4-inch piece of paper
- knife
- potato
- nonpermanent marker

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