



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Advent  
Winter Year 3, Lesson 28

# God Can Do Anything

**Primary Scripture:** Luke 1:26-56

**Key Verse:** Luke 1:37, "But nothing is impossible for God."

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

Kids have the ability to use their imaginations and believe that the incredible is not the impossible. God did the impossible when he sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin. He did the impossible when he permitted Elizabeth to have a baby in her old age. He did the impossible when he sent Jesus as rescuer for our sins. Since many church children are familiar with the Christmas story, perhaps they have lost the amazement and wonder that God was doing the impossible. Kids need to capture again the wonder of God doing the amazing in giving us his Son, Jesus. It is now possible for us to be brought into God's Kingdom as sons and daughters through faith in Christ.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

### **Jesus for us:**

Jesus was given as a gift to the world so that through his life and death in our behalf, we might be called children of God.

### **Jesus in us:**

Jesus not only came into this world physically, but he comes into our lives spiritually as we trust him as Savior and Lord.

### **Jesus through us:**

Jesus works through us so that we might declare the amazing and impossible things God has done to enter our lives and do wonderful things.

## 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: small dried mud clod or chunk that will dissolve when water is poured on it and a bucket of water (such as an empty ice cream bucket)*

**Let's think about things that seem impossible. For example, I will put this dried dirt clod on the floor and tell it to float to the ceiling when I clap my hands.**

Clap your hands and wait for no response.

**Well, I guess that's impossible.**

**Let's try this. If I put my hand in this bucket of water, is it possible for my hand to stay absolutely dry? No, I can't use any rubber gloves! What do you think? Is it possible or impossible to keep my hand dry?**

Put your hand in, pull it out wet.

**Impossible! Okay, can I tip the bucket upside down without any water pouring out? Should I try it?**

Kids will likely yell, "yes!" Swing the bucket in a circle over your head and note that the water doesn't pour out.

Well, I guess that some things that seem impossible really are possible. Now, that is just a trick. If you swing a bucket around fast enough the water won't pour out.

But it helps us remember something an angel once said to Mary. *"Nothing is impossible for God."* You see, Mary asked how she could have a baby that was God's Son. She also heard that her cousin, who was a very old lady, would also have a baby. These seemed impossible, but sure enough, nothing is impossible with God.

Let's worship God today and thank him and praise him that he is a mighty God and can make the impossible possible by giving us his Son, Jesus.

## **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: clear glass bowl, 2<sup>nd</sup> empty bucket, tissue/paper towel to wipe the bowl clean*

Hold up the dirt clod again.

**What do you think? Is it impossible to make this dirt clod disappear without touching it?**

The kids will suggest that you pour water on it. Place the dirt clod in the bowl.

**Let's see what happens.**

Pour water on the dirt clod, watch it dissolve.

As you do this, talk about the following.

**Something impossible for people to do is to get rid of sin. Sin is what we do that not only displeases God but also hurts us. God wants to wash our sin away. He did that when he sent his Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus was born as a baby, but he grew up to be a man. His most important job was to give his life for us by dying on the cross. Then all the punishment of all the sin of the world was placed on him. But he didn't stay dead, he came alive again and is with us right**

**now. For anyone who trusts Jesus as his/her Savior, Jesus does this.**

Empty the bowl into another bucket. Wipe away or clean out the dirt remaining in the bowl.

**He washes our sins away. Let's pray for him to do that now.**

### Prayer

**Lord God, it is impossible for us to take away our own sin, but it is possible for you. Please forgive our sin and take it away. We think of the things that we have done this week that aren't pleasing to you. We think of ways we might have been mean or selfish. We think of ways we might have disobeyed or dishonored our parents. We think of anything that we feel badly about because we know we didn't do the right thing. Please wash away those sins so that we can be clean. Now help us to not do those things again. Make it possible to live our lives for you. Jesus, live in our hearts and make it possible. In your name, we pray. Amen.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to 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: clean bowl from Power of the Cross.*

Have kids come up and place their offerings into the clean bowl.

**Placing our offerings in this clean bowl reminds us that because God has done the impossible and taken away our sin and washed us clean inside, we can show our love to God by giving our offerings. These offerings will also help others come to know God's love for them, as well.**



# 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.*

### **“Impossible Water Relay”**

*Supplies: a pitcher of water, a second empty pitcher, and a paper cup per group*

In advance, set up some tables with the pitchers of water on one side of the room and make a starting line with masking tape on the floor about 30 feet away.

Divide kids into teams. Have teams line up behind the starting line. Place an empty pitcher at the front of each line. The first person from each team runs across the room and pours water into a cup. They hang onto the top lip of the cup with their fingers and swing it at least one time over their head quickly enough so the water remains in the cup. Then they return to the starting line to pour the water into an empty pitcher. The cup is then passed to the next kid on each team who runs across the room to get the cup filled, swings his/her arm around once in the air and returns to continue filling the pitcher. After a set amount of time, the game is called and the pitchers are measured to see who has the most water.

*Explanation for kids:*

**Today we’re going to do the Impossible Water Relay. Your mission is to go get some of the Impossible Water from the Land of the Impossible.**

Point to the other side of the room where the table with a water pitcher is set.

**For you to bring the water back, you’ve got to turn the water from Impossible Water to Possible Water by swinging it upside down quickly, one time over your head with your arm fully extended. While you swing the bucket, you must say, “Nothing is impossible for God.” Next you bring the water back to your home base and pour the Possible Water into your team’s pitcher. We’ll see which team can collect the most amount of water in its pitcher at the end of five minutes.**

## Game application

**It looks to me like we developed our own sign to show God is able to turn the impossible into something possible. It's making a sign like this with your arm by swinging it up over your head.**

Demonstrate the action.

**On that very first Christmas, did they have a sign like that for God making the impossible into something possible? No, they didn't. But they did do this.**

Raise both hands to heaven.

**It was their custom to raise both hands to heaven as they praised God. They praised God for the amazing thing he did. We'll find out more about that when we see the Bible event today.**

## **Bible Presentation:**

### Option 1: Storytelling

## **God Can Do Anything**

Luke 1:5-45

*Supplies: a piece of cloth about the size of a hand towel or tea towel*

As you tell the story, use the cloth in a way that represents different actions and characters.

- When you talk about Zechariah, simply lay it over your head as if it were a head covering.
- When you describe that he could not speak, hold the cloth over your mouth.
- When talking about Mary, wear the cloth as a headpiece and hold it tightly under your chin.
- When talking about Gabriel, the angel, majestically and slowly wave the towel back and forth over your head.
- When talking about Elizabeth having a baby, hold it around your waist with your hand underneath it and move it when telling about how the baby jumped in her womb.

## Introduction: Zechariah and Elizabeth

Lay cloth over your head as a headpiece.

**Zechariah is an old man who is a priest in the Temple of Jerusalem. He and his wife, Elizabeth, are faithful to God. But they are sad that God had never given them children and now they are too old.**

## God appears to Zechariah

Wave the cloth majestically.

**But one day while ministering in the temple, an angel appeared to Zechariah and said, “God has heard your prayer and your wife Elizabeth will have a son and you will name him John. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will prepare people to meet their Lord.”**

## Zechariah can't speak

**Zechariah can hardly believe his eyes and his ears. “This seems impossible!” he said. What sign will you give me since my wife is too old to have children? The angel said, “From now on, you will not be able to speak until the day all of this happens.”**

Put the cloth over your mouth.

**So as Zechariah left the temple that day, he could no longer speak. But sure enough, just as the angel said, Zechariah's wife, even though she was very old, soon had a baby growing in her tummy.**

## Gabriel visits Mary

Wear the cloth as a headpiece. Hold tightly under chin.

**Elizabeth's cousin was Mary. She lived in a different city named Nazareth. God sent the same angel, Gabriel, to talk to her. The angel greeted her and said,**

Wave the cloth majestically overhead.

**“Don't be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will have a baby grow inside of you and when he is born, you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High God.”**

Wear the cloth as a headpiece. Hold tightly under chin.

**But Mary said, “This can't be true. I'm not even married. I have no husband.”**

## Mary is given a sign: Elizabeth will have a baby!

Wave the cloth overhead.

**The angel said, “The Holy Spirit will come to you and the power of God will put a baby inside of you. Not only is this true, but your cousin Elizabeth, even though she is old, already has a baby growing in her. People said it was impossible and that she couldn’t have a child. But nothing is impossible for God.”**

## Elizabeth’s baby jumps

Wear the cloth as a headpiece. Hold tightly under the chin.

**Mary replied, “I’m the Lord’s servant. Let it happen just as you said.” Then Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. When they saw each other, they both had babies inside of them.**

Lay cloth over your hands at waist level. Make the “baby” jump.

**As soon as Elizabeth got close to Mary, Elizabeth’s baby jumped inside of her tummy. Already the baby knew that he was near the one who would soon be born as God’s own Son.**

## Option 2 – Video Clip

Show a clip from the video, *Jesus of Nazareth*, distributed by the Bridgestone Group, Inc., Agapeland Home Video, 1995 (ISBN #1-56371-37-0).

Start ten minutes from the beginning. View the portion of Mary visited by the angel. Mary says, “Who are you?... How can that be? No man has ever touched me.” Continue clip to where Mary says, “Oh, but it’s true. She is to have a son and I must go to visit her.” This first section lasts three minutes, 59 seconds.

Fast forward to the portion where Mary begins her journey to visit Elizabeth and says the following words, “Come, Mary. You’ll be comfortable.” Finish the clip three minutes, three seconds later when Elizabeth indicates the baby has jumped in her womb.



## **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.*

**Mary and Elizabeth knew that God did something wonderful for them. Can you imagine how it felt for Elizabeth to finally have a baby even though she was old? How do you think Mary felt knowing that she would have a baby, God's own Son, the Savior of the world?**

**I know both Mary and Elizabeth felt that God had done something wonderful for them. God has also done wonderful things for you and me. Can you think of something wonderful that God has done for you? For example...**

Give an example from your life. You might mention how God made you his child by giving you Jesus as your Savior. Then mention how you saw God work in your life last week.

After the kids share their stories, have them give thanks to God for them. At every opportunity, point out that nothing is impossible for God. He gives us the very best gift of his Son, Jesus.

## **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.*

**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.*

Your choice of music.

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- small dried mud clod or chunk that will dissolve when water is poured on it
- a bucket of water with a handle, such as an empty ice cream bucket

## *Power of the Cross:*

- clear glass bowl
- 2<sup>nd</sup> empty bucket
- tissue/paper towel to wipe the bowl clean

## *Offering:*

- clean bowl from Power of the Cross

## *Learning Game:*

per group:

- a pitcher of water
- 2<sup>nd</sup> empty pitcher
- a paper cup

## *Bible Presentation:*

- video, *Jesus of Nazareth*, distributed by the Bridgestone Group, Inc., Agapeland Home Video, 1995. ISBN #1-56371-37-0—order from <http://shopping.discovery.com/product-14796.html?jzid=40587878-6-0>

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