



Date: _____

Series: Good Kings – Bad Kings
Fall Year 4, Lesson 20

God Can Do All Things

Primary Scripture: Philippians 4:13 (*Do all things through Christ*); 1 Samuel 17 (*David and Goliath*); Matthew 17:20-21 (*Mustard seed faith*); Matthew 16:16-19 (*Bold confession*)

Key Verse: Philippians 4:13, “I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.”

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

Kids have the capacity for faith. They can believe the extraordinary. Our God has the ability to do the extraordinary. He simply invites people with child-like faith to believe it. Today, kids will examine the biblical truth that God can do all things. When all hope seems lost, God can do the impossible. Kids need to know this and trust him completely. This will not mean that all life's situations will work out the way they want, but it does mean that God is big enough to do anything. And in every circumstance, he will be faithful to those who are called his own.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus achieved the impossible through the cross and resurrection.

Jesus in us: The limitless God dwells in his limited creatures, which seems impossible. But this is possible through the Holy Spirit who indwells us.

Jesus through us: Armed with the faith and confidence that comes from Christ, we can boldly profess his good news to the world.

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: empty vegetable or fruit can wrapped in a label that says "God"

Hold up the empty can that is labeled "God," and say:

I wonder what this is. It looks like a simple can. And it has the word "God" on it. What do you think this can is called? It is a "God Can."

The important truth we will learn today is that GOD CAN do all things. When things seem impossible, we have a God that makes the impossible possible. Paul says it this way, "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." So, today, when I say "WHO CAN?" you say, "GOD CAN!"

For example, when you have a problem with a friend and you need someone to help you with it, WHO CAN? Pause for kids to respond. GOD CAN! If you have a family member who is sick and you need someone to help, WHO CAN? GOD CAN! If you feel lousy inside and you wonder if anyone can love you, WHO CAN? GOD CAN! That's right!

Today, let's praise our God who wants us to believe that he is a mighty God. He comes to rescue his people and give them victory in all that they do to serve him.

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.

Hold your hand over the top of the God Can.

What do you think I am doing with this can? That's right, I am covering it up. That keeps us from putting anything into the can. The things that need to be put in the "God Can" are impossible problems that need God's help. But sometimes we don't talk to God about those things or the problems that seem impossible. It is like putting our hands over the top of our "God Cans." When we do this, we are not putting our faith and trust in God. The problem is not that God cannot help us. God can! WHO CAN? GOD CAN! The problem is that sometimes we don't give him our problems.

One problem we can never fix on our own is getting rid of our sin. We need to take our hands off the tops of our cans and allow God to lift our sin off of us. Lifting our sin is impossible for us to do on our own. For God, it is possible because he gave his Son Jesus who took our punishment on the cross to lift our sin away. Let's pray now that God would do the impossible and lift our sins off of us.

Dear Jesus, we thank you that you did something that was impossible for us to do. You lived a perfect life. When you died on the cross, you took the punishment for all of our sin, even though you didn't deserve it. Now you have taken our sins onto yourself. So please forgive us. Forgive us for any of the ways we have disobeyed you or hurt others. You can do impossible things for us. Forgive us for ways that we have not believed and trusted. We take our hand off the top of the "God Can" and receive what you give to us—the forgiveness of sins. 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.

Your choice of music.

Offering:

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

Supplies needed: three “God Cans” as described above in the Attention Grabber

Place one or more “God Cans” in front. Explain that because God has done the impossible for us, we are free to give him our first and best gifts in our offerings. Ask the kids to place their offerings in the “God Can(s).”

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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.

Option one: Field Trip

Supplies: a small seed, a small rock

Take a field trip outside and look for seeds and rocks. Ask the kids not to pick up more than two seeds and two rocks each.

After all kids have gathered their seeds and rocks, divide them into groups of five. Have them show their favorite rock and seed to the group. Have them then place these in the center of the group and mix them up. Then have them identify their own rocks and seeds. To make the game more challenging, make the groups even larger.

Learning Point:

Show the audience a seed and a rock from the supplies or a volunteer and say:

This seed doesn't seem very powerful. This rock may not seem very powerful either. And I know a word that may not seem very powerful because it is just a word. But did you know that this seed, this rock, and this word that I know are so powerful that the seed would move a mountain, the rock would move a giant, and the word would knock down the devil himself? That's what we will hear today. But the one thing the rock, seed and word need to make them work is something that starts with the letter "F." I'm not going to tell you the answer now. Wait until we get to the *Bible Event*.

Option two: Group Rock, Paper, and Scissors

Supplies needed: masking tape

In advance, use masking tape to make two parallel lines on the floor, about four feet apart, in the center of the room. Make two more lines, parallel to the center lines, on each side of the room. The outside lines should be out as far apart as possible, but there should be enough room for the kids to run behind the line as a "free zone."

Have the kids pick a partner and practice the “Rock, Paper, Scissors” game. To play: both partners hit a fist against their other palm twice in rhythm together and then show one of three signs (rock, paper, or scissors) on the third beat.

The sign for “rock” is a closed fist. The sign for “paper” is an open palm. And the sign for “scissors” is the index finger and middle finger extended with the thumb holding down the other two fingers. The winning signs: rock beats scissors, scissors cut paper, and paper covers rock. So if scissors and paper are shown at the same time, the winning person is the one with the scissors because “scissors cut paper.”



After the kids play a few rounds with their partners, tell them that they will play this game in teams.

Divide the kids into two teams. The teams stand on opposite sides of the room and meet for a huddle to decide what sign they will use – rock, scissors, or paper. Then they all line up behind the center line on their side of the room. Each person must put his front foot on the center line and face off with the other team. Everyone pounds his fists in his palms twice in rhythm and then shows his team’s sign on the third beat. The players with the winning sign try to tag the players with the losing sign before they can retreat back past their “free” line on the far side of their half of the room. If a team member is tagged, he became a member of the winning team for the next round. The game can be repeated several times.

There usually isn't a clear winner and loser in this game, ultimately, because players switch from side to side often.

Learning Point:

In this game, we learned how rocks could beat scissors, scissors could beat paper, and paper could beat rocks. No one could always be a winner. Everyone had something that could beat him or her. What about life? Is there anyone that can never be beaten?

God cannot be beaten. He always wins. As a matter of fact, God can do anything. We just need to remember this when facing challenges. We always have the winning sign; it is the sign of Jesus who is God's sign to us. And when we can't win, WHO CAN? GOD CAN!

Bible Presentation:

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.

Teaching Activity:

Supplies: the three "God Cans" from the Offering; a small tape player that can fit inside the "God Can" with the recorded message that says "Jesus Christ is Lord" (If a small tape player is unavailable, write the message on a small sheet of paper that fits in the can.); a small seed; a small rock

Move the offering from the cans to the offering bucket. Place a small seed in one can, a small rock in another can, and a small tape player in the third can.

Hold up the can with the small seed.

I have one of the most powerful weapons in the whole world in this can. Let me show you what it is. It seems empty. What is it?

Show kids the inside of the can with the small seed barely visible.

You can't see it? It's right here.

Reach inside and take out the tiny seed.

Let's find out what is so powerful about a small seed.

Read Matthew 17:20-21.

A mustard seed is smaller than this one. What Jesus is saying is that you just need to believe his power is so great that it can move mountains from here to there. Does this mean that everything that you pray for and ask God for will be given to you exactly the way you

want? No, not necessarily. Even if he doesn't answer your prayer with a "Yes," he will always answer your prayer with the power of his presence in your life. He will always help you no matter what, if you turn to him.

Hold up the can with the small rock.

What is in this can?

They may or may not see the rock. Show them the rock.

This is one of the most powerful weapons in the world. Why? Well, it is not very powerful by itself. But if you had put it in the hands of a teenage boy many years ago, you would find it was powerful enough to kill a giant. This boy named David saw how big his opponent was, a nine-foot giant named Goliath, but he also saw how big his God was. His God could squash a nine-foot giant like that. Snap your finger.

The giant shouted insults at David and invited him to fight. But when David took the rock and put it in the sling, he had confidence that God was going to give him the victory. He was a young boy who saw a big God – a big God that could squash the giant in a second. And that is what happened. When we face the impossible, WHO CAN? GOD CAN!

Hold up the can with the tape player or written message and ask kids if they might know what is in it. Play or read the message that says, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

Why are these words so powerful? In Matthew 16, it tells us how "Jesus" is a word that gives victory even over Satan! This is how it happened.

Read Matthew 16:13–19.

This passage says that the gates of hell cannot overcome Jesus. God built the church on what Peter said. He professed that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. In other words, he is our Savior. And when you speak the Name, "Jesus," it is so powerful that Satan himself cannot stand.

If you took a walk on a sidewalk right through hell itself and there were all kinds of scary demons all around you, they would flee if you were saying, "I believe in Jesus Christ the Son of the living God." They cannot stand it. The Holy Name of Jesus makes them flee because Jesus defeated the power of the devil when he died on the cross.

The power in the seed, rock, and word depend on one thing. It begins with the letter “F.” Who can guess what it is?

The word is “Faith.” Without faith, a seed, a rock, and a word don’t have much power. But through faith, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Craft Activity:

Supplies: an empty fruit or vegetable can for each child, a label that fits around each can that the child can decorate, Scotch® tape or glue for attaching the label to the can, markers, crayons, stickers, and/or other items for decorating the “God Cans,” a seed and rock for each can (If option one is played for the learning game, most children will already have seeds and rocks.)

Explain to the children that they will make their own “God Cans.” Explain that at home they can write down their problems or prayer requests and put them in the can anytime they want to ask for God’s help. They can remember “WHO CAN? GOD CAN!”

Pass out cans, labels, and decorating items to the children. Have kids write “God Can!” on their labels and decorate them before taping them to their cans. They can even place a seed or rock in their cans, if available.

To wrap up the activity, say “Jesus” into one of the cans. Then whisper “Jesus” (*like an echo*).

You know what I just heard? I heard the word “Jesus.”

Say “Jesus” into the can again. Then whisper “Jesus.”

I heard it again.

Then ask them to say “Jesus” into their cans. Remind them that the word “Jesus” is so powerful it can knock down the devil.



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.

Talk about situations that need powerful prayer. Place four chairs in the front, and ask four volunteers to come forward who would like prayers for situations that are feeling kind of tough. Afterwards, say, “WHO CAN? **GOD CAN!**” Have other children pray over them. This can be repeated as time allows.

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.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- empty vegetable or fruit can wrapped in a label that says “God”

Offering:

- three “God Cans” as described above in the *Attention Grabber*

Learning Game:

- Option 1:
 - a small seed
 - a small rock
- Option 2:
 - masking tape—mark lines as described in the lesson

Bible Presentation:

- Teaching Activity:
 - three “God Cans” from the *Offering*
 - a small tape player that can fit inside the “God Can” (The tape inside the player should have the recorded message that says “Jesus Christ is Lord.”) If a small tape player is unavailable, write the message on a small sheet of paper that fits in the can. The tape player is more effective, if available.
 - a small seed
 - a small rock
- Craft Activity:
 - an empty fruit or vegetable can for each child
 - a label that fits around each can that the child can decorate
 - Scotch® tape or glue for attaching the label to the can
 - markers, crayons, stickers, and/or other items for decorating the “God Cans”
 - a seed and rock for each can; if option one is played for the learning game, most children will already have seeds and rocks