

Luke 1:26-38

“Get Ready for the Impossible”

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Memory Verse: Luke 1:37 *“For with God nothing will be impossible.”*

Lesson Focus: Continuing in our “GET READY for Christmas” theme we will see how the angel Gabriel told Mary to GET READY for the very first Christmas. Her response was one of faith and obedience, even when it all seemed IMPOSSIBLE. As we look at how God did the IMPOSSIBLE to save us, we will encourage the kids to respond just like Mary did.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Gabriel visiting Mary, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for all grades: Jesus the Gift of God Ornament

Starter Activity: Race to Spell “Impossible” *

We will again provide you with a bunch of Scrabble letters to play a relay game. Break your kids up into at least two groups and have them be on one side of the area. On the other side of the area, put out piles of letters for each group. Then have the kids one-by-one race to fetch letters to spell out the word “**IMPOSSIBLE**”. The first child will need to find an “I”, and when he comes back, the next child will need to run and find the “M”, etc. Write the word on the white board in big letters so each kid knows which letter to get next. The first team to spell it out wins! We will provide you with two sets of letters that have enough of each to spell it out. As an alternative, introduce the phrase by playing a game of “Hangman” with the kids (or do both!). Afterwards have some discussion:

Q: What does the word **IMPOSSIBLE** mean?

A: It means something cannot happen.

Q: What are some things that might seem **IMPOSSIBLE**?

Teachers: See the pictures of the characters from the story. We referenced these in our lesson last week and will do so again this week. As you transition into the Bible study consider showing them to the kids and seeing if they remember the characters.

Last week we looked at how John the Baptist * was appointed by God to tell people to GET READY for the coming of Jesus Christ. As we continue the account this week, we will also see how someone else was to GET READY for the **IMPOSSIBLE**!

We are less than two weeks away from Christmas now. Christmas can sometimes become so much about presents, trees, and lights that we forget what it is really about: Jesus Christ and how seemingly **IMPOSSIBLE** His mission and coming was.

Bible Study:

Teachers: Consider reading the whole account (**Luke 1:26-38**) first using the pictures of the characters that we left you as they come in and out of the story. As we did last week, stress that these are REAL people and that this is NOT a fairy tale. Then come back and go deeper through the individual sections. *

Luke 1:26-27: This is the same angel Gabriel that visited Zacharias in the temple in the earlier part of the chapter. Now he comes to bring an important message to Mary. Mary was betrothed or engaged to Joseph which means they were planning to get married.

Luke 1:28-29: Gabriel tells Mary to rejoice, but it says that she was troubled and confused.

Q: How would you respond if an angel suddenly appeared to you and told you to rejoice and that you were favored by God?

Luke 1:30-31: Gabriel encourages her not to be afraid and then tells her what is going to happen: She is going to have a baby and He is to be called.....JESUS! Names have meaning both in Bible times and in our time.

Q: Do any of you know what your name means or why you were given your name? *

The name “Jesus” or *Yeshua* in the original language means something special. It means: “*God saves or God rescues.*” Keep this in mind as we will come back to this in a few minutes. *

Luke 1:32-33: Wow! This baby sure sounds special!

I see four special things about this baby in these two verses. Let’s read them again and as you listen carefully tell me what you hear: *

- 1) He will be great
- 2) He will be the Son of God Most High
- 3) He will be given a throne (David’s throne)
- 4) He will reign forever

This baby is going to be a King! In fact He is going to be the King of Kings as the Bible calls Him elsewhere (**Revelation 19:16**). There is NO ONE greater! *

This was also the fulfillment of one of God’s many promises that He made to the Jewish people before Jesus was born.

Q: Who remembers who King David was? A: He was famous for slaying Goliath! Afterwards he became the most famous king of the Jewish people!

David loved God and in **2 Samuel 7:16** God made a promise to him that his throne and kingdom would be forever! This promise was made about 1000 years before Jesus was born. During those 1000 years, however, the throne and kingdom were temporarily destroyed because the people turned their backs on God. * So for hundreds of years people were waiting and waiting for God to fulfill His promise. * This baby boy Jesus was the fulfillment of that promise!

Luke 1:34-37: This is a lot for Mary to take in! She's going to have the King of Kings in her womb/belly? But let's go back to the word we talked about at the very beginning of our lesson: **IMPOSSIBLE**

Mary was to GET READY for the **IMPOSSIBLE**! You, me, and everyone else that has ever come into being (except Adam and Eve) have come because we had both a human father and a human mother. That makes us all 100% human.

But Mary was told that this baby Jesus was going to be different. Jesus will have a human mother just like us, but God was going to be His Father! Joseph would be His adopted father only. This little baby is going to be the God-man: 100% God and 100% man.

IMPOSSIBLE? Not with God! *

God has been doing the **IMPOSSIBLE** since the beginning of time. Let's look at a few examples and when I ask you if it is **IMPOSSIBLE**, you all say, "**Not with God!**"

- 1) The whole universe was created out of nothing (**Genesis 1**). Impossible?
- 2) The Red Sea was split apart to rescue the Jewish people from Pharaoh and his army. (**Exodus 14**). Impossible?
- 3) The walls of the city of Jericho came crumbling down (**Joshua 6**). Impossible?
- 4) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fiery furnace alive? (**Daniel 3**). Impossible?
- 5) Water was turned into wine (**John 2**). Impossible? *
- 6) The violent storm was instantly calmed (**Mark 4**). Impossible?
- 7) Jesus died on the cross but was raised from the dead the third day. (**Luke 24**). Impossible? *

Teachers: Notice the transition in this last one below and use this to finish the lesson!

- 8) Man can be forgiven his sins and therefore be with God (**John 14:6**). Impossible?

Key Point: Indeed! It is **IMPOSSIBLE** for man to be forgiven and restored to God without Jesus! We needed a Rescuer and a Savior! This is WHY God sent His Son that very first Christmas 2000 years ago!

Luke 1:38: Mary's response to the **IMPOSSIBLE** was one of faith and trust. Instead of challenging or complaining she listened and obeyed. She said, "Your will be done, God"

What is your response? When you understand God's grace, God freely giving His Son to the world so that whoever believes in Him would be saved, do you trust and obey? Make your Christmas more and more about Jesus this year and remember and believe that God still can do the **IMPOSSIBLE** even today! Pray, ask, and trust!

Bring It Home

(Devotional for the Family)

Lesson Theme: “Get Ready for the Impossible”

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Memory Verse: Luke 1:37 *“For with God nothing will be impossible.”*

Teachers/Parents: In class we talked a lot about the word impossible. Think of a time when you were faced with a difficult and perhaps seemingly impossible situation. What lessons did you learn through this experience? Discuss.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Luke 1:28**. Imagine having an angel come to you and saying something like this. How would you feel?
- 2) In **Luke 1:31**, Mary is told the name that she is to give the baby. What’s the baby’s name? In class we talked about how the name Jesus means, “God saves”. Why is this a fitting name for this baby boy?
- 3) Notice also from **Luke 1:31** that Mary didn’t decide the name of the child. Does that seem strange to you? Why or why not?
- 4) **Luke 1:32-33** goes on to describe how extraordinary this baby is going to be. Read through these verses slowly and pick out all of the ways this child is described. Then read **Isaiah 9:6-7** which was a prophesy about this boy written hundreds of years beforehand. What similarities do you see?
- 5) Read **Luke 1:34-35** which describes the IMPOSSIBLE miracle of the conception of Jesus Christ. In class we talked about how all people have a human father and a human mother. But only Jesus had a divine father and a human mother. Thus, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. Can you think of any reasons why it is so astounding that God willingly chose to take on a human nature?
- 6) In **Luke 1:37**, our memory verse, we see the angel remind Mary that God can do the IMPOSSIBLE. What are some examples of God doing the IMPOSSIBLE in the Bible? Have there been any in your own life?
- 7) How would you describe Mary’s response to all of this in **Luke 1:38**? This Christmas season, how can you show a similar response to what God has done?