



12.11.11/ Luke 1:26-38

Nothing Will Be Impossible with God

Materials needed for Closing Activity

Write the following statements on individual sheets of paper and tape on the wall or lay out for children to see after reading today's lesson.

- Can Elizabeth have a baby even though she is very old?
- Can Jesus be born without a human father?
- A person is very sick and the doctors don't know how to help.
- Someone's dad needs a new job.
- A child does not have any friends at school.
- A friend does not want to follow Jesus.
- (Add your own if you think of a good one!)

Opening Discussion

Leaders, share a personal story about a time when you learned to trust God in a difficult situation. (*Ex: I had to trust God when I was looking for a job.*) Explain to the children that our story today will show that nothing is too difficult for God.

Read Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Understanding the Passage

(For longer passages, engage the children and make sure they understand what they heard!)

- How did Mary react when the angel Gabriel greeted her? *She was troubled. Probably scared, too!*
- After telling Mary not to be afraid, what was the Good News that Mary received? *She will give birth to a son named Jesus. He would be great and be called the Son of the Most High.*
- What does it mean to be a King? *It means to rule over a group of people and land.*
- How large is Jesus' kingdom? *There is no end to it!*
- What did Gabriel tell Mary about her relative, Elizabeth? *She was also going to have a baby even though she is very old.*
- What does Mary say to Gabriel before he leaves? *She will serve God according to what He desires!*

Discussion Questions

1. To receive favor from God means to be used by Him. In our passage today we see that Mary is called the favored one. Gabriel says again that she has received the Lord's favor. How does God use Mary? *Mary is Jesus' mother! God allows Mary, a normal, broken human being, to become pregnant with Jesus so that He could be born and live among us on*



Earth. She is used in the most amazing of ways because she helps raise him as a little boy and takes care of Him until He is an adult. Thank God for Mary's faithfulness!

2. A baby needs a mother and a father to be born. But baby Jesus had no human father. God put Jesus in Mary's womb (where the baby lives before it's born) and this was considered impossible by many because they didn't understand how it could have happened. But as we see in today's passage, "nothing will be impossible with God." God can perform miracles at any time because He has all power and authority. Are there things in your life that you think are impossible? *Allow children to answer. If they need help, ask them if there are areas in their life where they are discouraged or confused or scared. Let them know that God is all powerful, and pray with them about these things together.*

Activity

Point to the papers with the "situation statements" that you have laid out. Remind the children that "nothing will be impossible with God." Ask them to think about which situation will be too hard for God. Have them read the statements out loud. Call on a child to come forward and remove one "situation statement" that is NOT too hard for God. Repeat with additional children until all the statements are gone. Then ask the children to repeat with you, "nothing will be impossible with God!"

Reflection/Prayer

As a group or individually, pray that we would remember daily that God has all control. Nothing is outside of His abilities and He is a good and loving Father who knows what is best for us. Pray that He would have favor on you. Remember that favor does not mean gifts or comfort or an easy life, but that He will use you to help expand Jesus' never-ending kingdom. Just as God used Mary, pray that God would use you in a way that will bring Glory to Him. And if anyone has questions about what it means to trust and follow Jesus, encourage them to talk about this with their parents. Amen.