

Alley SG - October 19-20, 2019

Bible Story: Break on Through (Israel Goes Through the Red Sea) • *Exodus 13:17-14:31*

Bottom Line: You can do what you should, even when things seem impossible.

Key Question: How do you respond when things seem impossible?

Memory Verse: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9 NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Straws (one per student), tissues (one per student)

What You Do:

- **Give** each kid a straw and a tissue.
- **Challenge #1:** Keep their tissue in the air for as long as possible, using nothing but the air blown through the straw.
- **Challenge #2:** Pass a tissue around the circle using only the air blown through the straws to keep it afloat.
- **Do** these challenges separately at first. Then, if time allows, combine them for a third challenge!

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: Blindfolds (one per student), cups (50 per group)

What You Do:

- **Form** two equal teams and have them stand at opposite sides of the room.
- **Blindfold** each team member.
- **Place** 25 paper cups near each team.
- **Explain** that they will have two minutes (*use your phone, or just guesstimate*) to work together to form a circle of cups around their entire group while remaining blindfolded.
- When time is up, **remove** blindfolds and let kids see the results.
- **Rearrange** teams and play again as time allows.

What You Say:

"Building a wall of cups while blindfolded is a challenge, but it's nothing compared to the challenge God gave Moses in today's Bible story. **[Transition] Moses' list of courageous tasks God had for him seemed more and more impossible each time, but God was there to help him! And God helps you do the impossible too, through the power of His Son Jesus!**"

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: "Gestures" Cards (8 sets of 4 cards per group – *to be used at each service, so be sure the students paper clip the set together for the next class*)

What You Do:

- **Give** each kid a set of 4 "Gestures" cards.
- **Explain** that they will place one or more cards on the floor in front of them to indicate how they might respond to each of the situations you describe.
- **Read** the scenarios below or let kids come up with other difficult situations they might face that require courage because their fear seems impossible to overcome.
- **Allow** time for the kids to explain their responses then share ways they would show courage in each situation.
 - I just found out that my parents are getting a divorce.
 - I have to improve my grades if I want to be on the basketball team.

- All of my friends have been invited to a “harvest party” at a classmate’s house—except me.
- We can’t go on vacation this summer because my dad lost his job.
- I have to give a report in front of the whole class.
- My friend wants me to explain what it means to follow Jesus.
- My family wants to go horseback riding, but I’m terrified.
- The tornado alarm just went off.
- My dad’s job is transferring him to another state. We have to move.

What You Say:

“You may need courage for something others don’t and vice-versa. The situations that require courage are not always the same for each of us. Whatever you’re afraid of—give that fear to God. Talk to Him and ask Him to help you have courage. God does impossible better than anyone. He will give you what you need to do what you should even when things seem impossible.”

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What’s your first reaction or response when you’re faced with something that seems impossible?
- The Israelites witnessed some huge, amazing, miraculous, awesome stuff, right? Seems like it should have been EASY for them to have courage to trust God. Sometimes people demand to see a miracle from God before they will trust in Him. Do you think God needs to do something spectacular for us to trust in Him? Why or why not?
- Crossing the Red Sea on dry ground would be a memory you’d never forget. What is one of the first memories you have of seeing someone be courageous?
- Tell about a time in your life when something seemed impossible at first or on the first day, but after you were brave you found you got stronger or it got better. How did God help you?

5. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- **Sit** together in a circle.
- **Ask** each person to secretly choose one other person in the circle that he or she will watch.
- **Tell** everyone to close their eyes and strike a pose. If needed, suggest poses such as mannequins in a store window, superheroes, people at the park, actors on a stage, etc.)
- **Explain** that when you say “GO!” everyone will open their eyes and begin to copy the movements of the person they chose to watch. (*Spoiler Alert: The whole team will slowly morph into the same pose!*)
- **Repeat** the game if desired.
- **Invite** kids to have a seat.
- **Turn** their attention to Psalm 32:8 as you read it aloud or invite them to look it up in their Bibles or apps.
- **Help** kids grasp the meaning of the verse by putting it into their own words. Clarify as needed if their interpretation is not correct.
- **Lead** a brief discussion about God’s promise to watch over us and give us what we need to take on the challenges of life that seem overwhelming, confusing, and difficult.
- **Ask:**
 - What stood out to you in this verse?
 - When would remembering what God said in this verse be most helpful to you?
 - If you believe God is always keeping a kind eye on you, how might that change the way you see the situations you face? How does it impact the way you react?
 - How does this verse give you courage?

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- **Remind** kids of the value and importance of taking time to sit and think about the things God has said in the Bible.
- **Provide** a “quiet” atmosphere, if possible, in a corner of your small group space.
- **Explain** that you will read Joshua 1:9b to them and will pause after each sentence to give them time to silently answer the following question: “What is God saying to me in this part of the verse?”
- **Ask** kids to think of places they will go this week and then consider how the commands and promise of Joshua 1:9b might give them courage.
- **Invite** several kids who are willing to lead aloud in prayer to pray for themselves and one another as you close.

What You Say:

“Dear God, You’ve given us the command to be brave and unafraid. You’ve given us the promise that You will be with us. Now, we ask they You give us the courage when we need it most this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!