



God Can Do The Impossible

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 1 • November 1/2/3
Side 1 • Small Group # 1
10 minutes



PRO TIP

Kids live in a world surrounded by make believe. Whether it is the video games they play, movies they watch, or books they read, they see people and characters doing impossible things. As you lead your group, remind them while those things are entertaining, they aren't true. The only one who can do the amazing and impossible in God!



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask: *If you could live in the world of any book, movie, or video game, what would it be?*



PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you that you are the one true God. Thank you for showing your power and love to us, just like you did for Elijah. Help us to trust you, even when things feel hard or scary. Please give us courage to follow you and tell others about you. We love you, Lord. Amen.*

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- *God's people were confused. Some were worshiping Baal instead of the one true God. Elijah told King Ahab to bring everyone to Mount Carmel to prove who the real God was.*
- *The prophets of Baal built an altar and prayed all day for Baal to send fire. They shouted, danced, and even hurt themselves, but nothing happened. Their god didn't answer.*
- *Then Elijah built an altar for the Lord. He put a bull on it and even poured water all over it three times until everything was soaking wet. Then Elijah prayed, asking God to show that he was the true God.*
- *Right away, fire came down from heaven! It burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and even the water. The people fell down and shouted, "The Lord—He is God!"*
- *After that, God sent rain to end the drought, showing his power and love for his people.*



BIBLE

Read: 1 Kings 18:16-45

Review:

- *Why do you think Elijah poured water on the altar before he prayed?*
- *How do you think the people felt when they saw fire come from heaven?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.

Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak. Isaiah 40:31



God Can Do The Impossible

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 1 • November 1/2/3

Side 2 • Small Group # 2

15 minutes

Give each kid a Paper Plate, Tape, Marker, and Popsicle Stick. Have them tape the popsicle stick to the plate so they can flip it back and forth. Have them draw a smiley face on one side and a sad face on the other. The happy face will be for the "true" answers and the sad face for "false." Ask the following questions to review the Bible story!

Say:

- *King Ahab trusted God and led the people to follow God.* **False:** King Ahab led the people away from God.
- *There was no rain for over three years. The crops died, and the people were hungry.* **True**
- *King Ahab was leading the people away from God to follow the false prophets of Baal and Asherah.* **True**
- *Elijah challenged King Ahab, along with his 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah to compete in a foot race-the fastest runner would be the winner!* **False:** Elijah challenged King Ahab to meet him, along with all the prophets of the false gods, on Mount Carmel. Elijah proposed a test to prove who the one true God was.
- *The prophets of Baal prepared a sacrifice but did not light the fire. The prophets prayed to their false god Baal from morning till noon and then all through a good part of the afternoon, but nothing happened.* **True**
- *Then, Elijah rebuilt God's altar. He put the sacrifice on it and then dug a ditch all around the altar. Then he instructed people to pour water over the altar three times.* **True**
- *Elijah prayed to God. But nothing happened* **False:** God answered Elijah right away. God completely burned up the soaked sacrifice, the wood, and even the stones! There was no doubt in that moment that God is the one TRUE God!
- *Before it started to rain, Elijah could hear it! He sent his servant to check seven different times.* **True**
- *After Elijah sent his servant to look for rain clouds seven times, it did not rain.* **False:** Heavy rain began to fall after more than 3 years of NO rain. The drought was finally over!
- *Elijah trusted God and put all his confidence in him, knowing God could do the impossible.* **True**



ACTIVITY



CHALLENGE

Give everyone a Generosity Challenge Card.

Say: *It's go time! Now is when we will start doing big things in our community through generous acts. Your challenge is to make a difference in your community through being generous. Let's do this!*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- *What are some ways we can show others that we believe God is real and powerful?*
- *Elijah prayed and God answered—what's something you can pray about and trust God with this week?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

Paper Plate Face (in Small Group)

- *Today we learned that God can do the impossible.*

Generosity Challenge Card (in Small Group)

- *Join us this month as we make our love Easy To See!*
kid Dedication Post Card (1 per family, at the door)



God Knows What's Best

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 2 • November 8/9/10

Side 1 • Small Group # 1

10 minutes



PRO TIP

Memorizing scripture can be hard for some kids. Using their body can make it easier. After practicing today's game as a group, invite kids to think of ways they can replicate the activity at home and memorize God's word.



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask: *Would you rather be able to fly or be able to be invisible?*



PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you for always listening when we call to you. Help us to trust you, even when we're scared or don't understand what you want us to do. Thank you for forgiving us when we make mistakes and for helping us obey you. Please help us to listen and follow you, just like Jonah learned to do. Amen.*



BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- *Jonah was a prophet, and God told him to go to the city of Nineveh and tell the people to stop doing wrong. But Jonah didn't want to go, so he ran away and got on a boat going the other direction! A big storm came, and the sailor's realized Jonah was the reason. They threw him into the sea, and God sent a big fish to swallow him.*
- *Jonah prayed to God from inside the fish, and after three days, the fish spit him out onto dry land. God gave Jonah a second chance and told him again to go to Nineveh. This time, Jonah obeyed. He told the people about God, and they listened! They stopped doing wrong and turned back to God.*

Read:

- Jonah 2:2
- Jonah 3:10

Review:

- *Where did God tell Jonah to go?*
- *What happened to Jonah when he disobeyed God?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



God Knows What's Best

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 2 • November 8/9/10

Side 2 • Small Group # 2

15 minutes



ACTIVITY

Place the Memory At Sea Verse Cards in the Bucket (or Cup) at least a few feet from your Group. Have one kid at a time run to the bucket/cup and pick a card, then the next kid will go. Once all the cards are picked, have them put the Memory Verse in order. (

- Variation: The leader can time how quick the kids are and they can try to beat their time the next round.

Say: *We are going to practice our Memory Verse by playing a relay race!*



CHALLENGE

Give everyone who didn't get one last week a Generosity Challenge Card. If anyone has done something for the Challenge, invite them to share, and then give them a My Love Is Easy to See Sticker to put on the sign.

Say: *It's go time! Now is when we will start doing big things in our community through generous acts. Your challenge is to make a difference in your community through being generous.*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- What happened to Jonah when he was on the boat? How did God take care of him?
- Can you think of a time God helped you even when things felt scary or hard?
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

Generosity Challenge Cards (one per kid who didn't receive previously, in Small Group)

- Join us this month as we make our love Easy to See!

Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.
Isaiah 40:31



God Is Always With You

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 3 • November 15/16/17
Side 1 • Small Group # 1
10 minutes



PRO TIP

As a Leader, we can remind the kids in our group that God is with them, no matter what. One way we can do this is by showing up in unexpected places. Send kids a note in the mail, surprise them at their basketball game, or simply stop them in the atrium after the gathering to let them know you are there for them and God is too- no matter what!



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask: *Would you rather swim in a pool filled with chocolate pudding or a pool filled with root beer?*



PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you for always being with us, just like you were with Daniel. Help us to trust you when we feel scared or when doing the right thing is hard. Give us courage to pray to you and follow you every day. Thank you for protecting us and loving us no matter what. We love you, God! Amen.*



BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- *King Darius put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom because he was honest, wise, and faithful. But some other leaders were jealous and tricked the king into making a law that said nobody could pray to any god except the king for 30 days. Daniel kept praying to God, even though it was against the law.*
- *The leaders reported Daniel, and King Darius was forced to throw him into a den of lions. But God sent an angel to protect Daniel, and he was not hurt at all! The next morning, the king was so happy to see Daniel safe. The jealous leaders were punished, and King Darius made a law that everyone must respect Daniel's God, who is powerful and always faithful.*

Read:

- Daniel 6:10
- Daniel 6:22
- Daniel 6:27

Review:

- *How did Daniel's faith in God show through his actions?*
- *What does this story teach us about standing up for what is right, even when it's hard?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



God Is Always With You

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 3 • November 15/16/17
Side 2 • Small Group # 2
15 minutes



ACTIVITY

Pass out the Shield Activity Page, Markers and pieces of Foil. Kids can color their shield, and use the foil to cover the shield or make a helmet.

Say: *We're going to create a shield and armor! This armor helps to remember that with God we can do anything! God is always with us, even in scary moments!*



CHALLENGE

Give everyone who didn't get one last week a Generosity Challenge Card. If anyone has done something for the challenge, they can place a My Love is Easy to See on the pillowcase!

Say:

- *It's go time! Now is when we will start doing big things in our community through generous acts. Your challenge is to make a difference in your community through being generous.*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- *How can you be brave like Daniel?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

Generosity Challenge Cards (one per kid who didn't receive previously, in Small Group)

- *Join us this month as we make our love Easy to See!*

Foil Armor

- *This armor helps to remind us that God is always with and we can trust him no matter what!*

Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.
Isaiah 40:31



God Can Help You Stand Up For Others

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 4 • November 22/23/24

Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

For some kids, praying for others can feel uncomfortable. As a group, talk about the ways they can pray for others. Whether it is writing a prayer in a journal, singing a prayer aloud, or praying quietly using a prayer created in the group, encourage kids to pray. Share about how much God wants to hear from them!



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask: *Would you rather spend the day being a cat or a dog?*



PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you for always watching over us and helping us be brave. Thank you for giving Esther courage to help her people. Please help us to be brave and kind like Esther, and to trust you when things feel scary. Thank you for loving us and protecting us every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- *A long time ago, a king named Ahasuerus ruled a huge kingdom. He had a big party, and when he asked his queen, Vashti, to come, she said no. The king was upset and decided he needed a new queen.*
- *A kind and brave Jewish girl named Esther was chosen to be the new queen. She kept a secret - the fact that she was Jewish. Meanwhile, a mean man named Haman made a plan to hurt all the Jewish people. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, asked her to help save their people.*
- *Even though it was scary, Esther went to the king and told him about Haman's plan. The king was very angry at Haman and had him punished. Because Esther was brave and trusted God, the Jewish people were saved. They celebrated with a big feast, remembering how God protected them.*

Read:

- Esther 4:14

Review:

- *Why do you think Esther was brave enough to go talk to the king?*
- *How did Esther help her people when they were in trouble?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



God Can Help You Stand Up For Others

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 4 • November 22/23/24

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



ACTIVITY

Pass out the Brick Prayers Activity Page and Markers. Have the kids write down different people they can pray for. Invite them to share about who they are praying for.

Say: *One way we can stand up for others is to pray for them! Let's pray for our friends and family!*



CHALLENGE

Give everyone who didn't get one last week a Generosity Challenge Card. If anyone has done something for the Challenge, invite them to share, and then give them a My Love Is Easy to See Sticker to put on the sign.

Say: *It's go time! Now is when we will start doing big things in our community through generous acts. Your challenge is to make a difference in your community through being generous.*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- Can you think of a time you had to be brave for someone else?
- Why is it important to trust God, even when things seem scary?
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

Generosity Challenge Cards (1 per kid who didn't previously receive, in Small Group)

- Join us this month as we make our love Easy to See!

Brick Prayers Activity Page (in Small Group)

- This prayer page helps us to remember that we can stand up for others by praying for them!

Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.
Isaiah 40:31



God Can Help You Do Big Things

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 5 • November 29/30/December 1
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Kids will be more engaged, excited, and willing to learn when they feel seen and known. Take the time in Small Group to ask kids about their week, learn what they enjoy doing, and have fun together! This helps to form trusting relationships and open their hearts to experience God.



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask: *What's your favorite song to listen to when you're happy?*



PRAY

Pray: *Dear God, thank you for always being with us, just like you were with Nehemiah. Help us to trust you when things are hard or scary. Thank you for giving us friends and family to work together with. Please give us courage and strength to do what is right and to help others. Thank you for loving us and keeping us safe. Amen.*



BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- *After God's people returned to Jerusalem, the city's walls were broken, and the people felt unsafe. Nehemiah, who worked for the king, heard about this and prayed to God, asking him for help. God gave Nehemiah courage and favor, and the king allowed him to go and rebuild the walls.*
- *Nehemiah encouraged the people to work together, even though some enemies tried to stop them. They prayed and trusted God while working hard, and bit by bit, the wall was rebuilt. Even when the enemies tried to scare Nehemiah and trick him, he stayed strong and trusted God. In the end, the wall was finished, and God's people were safe again.*

Read:

- Nehemiah 2:20
- Nehemiah 4:14

Review:

- *What did Nehemiah do first when he heard the news?*
- *How did the people work together to rebuild the wall?*

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



God Can Help You Do Big Things

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 5 • November 29/30/December 1
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



ACTIVITY

Give each kid three Sticky Notes. Place the Butcher Block Paper a few feet away. The sticky notes are "blocks" to "build a wall" on the paper. Each kid will go to the butcher block paper to put their sticky notes on it. Take turns until the wall is built.

Next, make it more difficult. Have the kids take back their three sticky notes. Use the Bandanna to blindfold each kid before their turn. The other kids can encourage by cheering or help by giving guidance.

Say: *It was hard to build the wall when you couldn't see, right? Just like Nehemiah had a hard time building the wall too! But with God's help we can do big things!*



CHALLENGE

Give everyone who didn't get one last week a Generosity Challenge Card. If anyone has done something for the Challenge, invite them to share, and then give them a My Love Is Easy to See Sticker to put on the sign.

Say: *What is one big thing you need God's help with this week? Write it down on one of your sticky notes or draw a picture about it and pray 3 days this week!*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask:

- How can we trust God when something feels hard or scary, like rebuilding a wall?
- Can you think of a time when you had to work hard with others to finish something?
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

Prompt kids to share the Bottom Line or Memory Verse with their grown-up

Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.
Isaiah 40:31