



OCTOBER THEME

**FEAR, INC**

**BIBLE STORY**

Exodus 13:17–14:31 |

Spark p. 84-89

Parting Waves | Moses and the Red Sea

**BOTTOM LINE**

You can do what you should even 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 1:9b, NIV

**LIFE APP**

Courage—being brave enough to do what you should do, even when you’re afraid

**BASIC TRUTH**

I can trust God no matter what

**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW:** the connection between **COURAGE** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story

**This WEEK:** In **Exodus 13:17–14:31**, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, but found himself up against an impossible scenario: the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh’s army chasing them down from behind. Only God could save them. Moses stood strong in the face of fear and trusted God to do what only God could do—part the Red Sea and create dry ground for the Israelites to escape. Our God is truly the God of the impossible.

**Bottom Line:** **You can do what you should even when things seem impossible.** We may not face the Red Sea or an army of angry Egyptians, but we will face moments where what we need to do will feel impossible to us. When that happens, we can remember that we can trust God no matter what. God is bigger and stronger than anything we face. Just like Moses and the Israelites, God can do the impossible in our lives too.

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray for kids who are dealing with things that seem impossible, whether it’s learning fractions at school or a parent who is terminally ill. Ask God to give those kids courage to move forward in faith, knowing that God will be with them every step of the way.

**•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids to list things that are impossible.
- Using one of their examples, ask kids what it would take to make the impossible possible. It is impossible to time travel but what if we invented a time machine, what impossible things would become possible? Or it is impossible to ride a dragon but what if we discovered a lair of friendly fire breathing dragons, what impossible things would become possible?

**•• IMAGINATION TRAP**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Have the kids work together to play a game of imagination, telling a story about “Spy



One” and “Spy Two.” Provide lots of help as needed.

- In the game, someone will think of a trap that Spy One would set for Spy Two.
- Then someone else will think of a way Spy Two would either avoid the trap or escape it when he gets caught. For example:
  - One kiddo might say, “Spy One sets a trap door trap to drop Spy Two down onto sharp spikes!”
  - The next kiddo might say, “Spy Two falls in the hole, but he is wearing super boots that keep the spikes from hurting him and bounce him out of the hole.”
  - Another kiddo might then say, “But then Spy One releases a hungry tiger to eat Spy Two!”
  - Then someone else might say, “But Spy Two pulls a raw steak out of his pocket and throws it out for the tiger to chase while he escapes.”
- The game can continue as long as the kids can continue thinking of ideas. You can also keep it going by giving a new starting point and letting kids take it from there.

**What You Say:** “You all have wonderful imaginations! Those were some clever traps and some clever escapes. Some of those traps seemed impossible to escape, but we thought of ways that we could do it. You know, there aren’t many traps that someone can’t figure out a way to escape. With all of this creativity, you’d think we’d never get discouraged by problems in our lives. But we often end up in situations we don’t think there is a way out of. When we are faced with things that seem impossible, we don’t have to just rely on our own creativity. If we did it would eventually run out. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WoW Family Worship we will learn/ we learned about an impossible situation that no human creativity could escape from.**”

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **CLOUD PILLAR GO** *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

**What You Need:** Masking tape, cotton balls; 1 for every 2 kids, candles; 1 for every 2 kids

**What You Do:**

- Create a small tic-tac-toe board (3x3 grid) on the table using masking tape.
- Divide the group into two teams: the Cloud team and the Fire team.
- Give the members of the Cloud team a cotton ball or “cloud.” Give members of the Fire team a candle or “pillar of fire.”
- Teams take turns answering questions pertaining to the Bible story.
  - If they get the question correct, a member of the team occupies a space in the grid by placing his team’s cotton ball or candle in a space of his choosing.
  - If they answer incorrectly, the opposing team gets an opportunity to answer the question and to occupy a space on the grid.
- The first team to place three props in a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal row wins.
- Play as many games as you have questions for. If time allows and you’re out of questions, make up your own. You could have kids list some impossible things that God has accomplished.

**Questions:**

- As the Israelites were fleeing from Egypt, how did they know God was traveling with them and guiding them during the day? *(a pillar of clouds guided them)*
- As the Israelites were fleeing from Egypt, how did they know God was traveling with them and guiding them during the night? *(a*



*pillar of fire)*

—God instructed the Israelites to camp by what body of water? (*the Red Sea*)

—Who chased the Israelites? (*Pharaoh and the Egyptian army*)

—When the Israelites were trapped along the shore of the Red Sea, with the Egyptian army bearing down on them, things seemed impossible. What did God tell Moses to do? (*raise his staff over the Red Sea*)

—It seems impossible to save the Israelites by simply raising a staff over the Red Sea, but Moses did what he should and listened to God. What happened to the water when Moses obeyed God and showed courage? (*the Red Sea parted*)

—How did the Israelites show courage? (*they did what they should even though they were afraid and they walked on dry ground across the Red Sea*)

—What happened to the Egyptians when they crossed the Red Sea? (*the water crashed down on them and destroyed them all*)

—What is the Bottom Line for today? [*Bottom Line*] (*You can do what you should even when things seem impossible*)

**What You Say:** “The Red Sea story is such a crazy story! Imagine what it would have been like to be an Israelite walking across the bottom of an ocean between two HUGE walls of water. I would have been VERY scared to do that! It would have been very hard for me to take that first step. I would be thinking, ‘This is NOT happening! What if the walls of water come crashing down on me?’ And yet God asked the Israelites to trust God and to show courage and to take the first step. You probably won’t be asked to cross the Red Sea, but there will be times when things seem impossible and you will need courage to take the first step. Maybe you had a fight with your friend and you think it is impossible to be friends again. Or you had a major wipe out on your skateboard and you think it is impossible that you will ever skateboard again. You can have courage if you remember [**Bottom Line**] **you can do what you should even when things seem impossible.**”

●● **IMPOSSIBLE FEATS** (*application activity*)

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

• Guide kids to try some of the “Impossible Feats” listed below:

• Paralyzed Finger:

—Kids place a hand on the table.

—Kids bend their middle finger so both knuckles are on the table.

—With the middle finger bent, kids try lifting, one at a time, their thumb, index finger, ring finger, and pinky finger.

—Can kids do it? (*They won’t be able to lift their ring finger.*)

• Lift Your Foot:

—Kids stand against a wall so their ankle, knee, hip, shoulder, and head are resting on the wall.

—Without moving any part of their body from the wall, kids try to lift their foot that is not touching the wall.

—Can they do it? If not, why? What happens when they move only the foot touching the wall away from the wall slightly? Can they move the other foot now?

• Figure 8

—Kids sit in a chair and move their right leg counter-clockwise.

—At the same time, they draw a figure eight with their finger in the air.

—Can they do it? What happens?

• Some kids may be able to do the following feats:

—Lick your elbow.

—Raise only one eyebrow.

—Wiggle your ears.

—Curl your tongue.

**What You Say:** “I love how hard you all tried to do the activities even though, as you tried, it seemed impossible to accomplish the task.”



Sometimes you will find yourself in situations that seem impossible. But remember, **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when things seem impossible.** Crossing the Red Sea seemed impossible for the Israelites, but what was the first thing Moses did? The very first courageous thing Moses did was to trust God no matter what! The Israelites were terrified and crying out loud and Moses said, ‘Do not be afraid ... the LORD will fight for you.’ (*Exodus 14:13-14, NIRV*) Though the situation looked impossible, Moses trusted God would be there for them. And then Moses showed courage by listening to God. What did God tell Moses to do with his staff? (*Raise the staff over the water.*) And what did Moses do? (*Moses obeyed.*) Like Moses, when things seem impossible, you can show courage by trusting God and obeying God.”

**[Make It Personal]** (*Think of a time when God asked you to do something that seemed impossible. Maybe a friend was really sick and you couldn't help them feel better. Or you were asked to go on a mission trip to a country and you didn't even speak the language there. Or you needed to forgive a friend who had really hurt your feelings. What did you do to show courage and take the first step even when it seemed impossible for you to make a difference?*)

●● **CROSSING THE RED SEA** (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** Bibles, “Hopscotch Design” activity page, bean bag, one set of “Memory Verse Cards,” 9 sheets of copy paper, masking tape

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids to look up the memory verse for the month (*Joshua 1:9b*). Read the verse out loud together.
- Create a hopscotch design on the floor using by taping the sheets of copy paper to the ground in the pattern shown on the “Hopscotch Design” activity page.
- Place a “Memory Verse Card” in each of the hopscotch squares, in the correct order from 1-9.
- Explain that the hopscotch squares are “dry land.” Kids must hop across the “Red Sea” on the dry land.
- For the first round, kids hop across the Red Sea, and as they land on a square, they say the part of the memory verse in each square.
- For the next round, on each kid’s turn, he tosses a beanbag on one of the squares and removes the card from the square the beanbag lands on.
- Then he must hop across the Red Sea saying all the words of the memory verse, including the words on the missing card.
- Before the next kid’s turn, replace the missing card. Or for an added challenge, leave it off, so that it’s increasingly harder for each subsequent kid who takes a turn!

**What You Say:** “There is a lot in this world that is impossible for me. It is impossible for me to breathe underwater or wiggle my ears. Time travel? Impossible for me, but nothing is impossible for God. Moses didn’t have the ability to part the Red Sea but God did and God can choose to give us crazy abilities to do the impossible. When you trust God, **[Bottom Line] you can do what you should even when things seem impossible.** When you trust God, you can be strong and brave. Trusting God helps you not be afraid and gives you hope. When you trust God, you know God is with you everywhere you go, even when you are facing what seems impossible.”

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## PRAY AND SEND

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Remind kids that God is at work in the good and the bad, the easy and the impossible things that happen. Learning how to have courage when things seem impossible is a huge life lesson that God will keep teaching us as we follow God.

