

MAY THEME



BIBLE STORY

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

Send Me On My Way | Jesus' Final Orders to His Disciples/Ascension

Spark Story Bible, pg. 496-497 + 498-499
The Great Commission + The Ascension

BOTTOM LINE

Keep going even when it seems impossible

MEMORY VERSE

"Stay excited about your faith as you serve the Lord. When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful."

Romans 12:11-12, NIV

LIFE APP

Determination | Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

●● THEME OVERVIEW

Key Question: What seems impossible to you? We face all sorts of things throughout our week that feel impossible: online school, virtual conference calls, balancing working at home with being at home...all the time. Tonight we pray we'll discover how we can trust God, keep going, and finish what we start.

We start off the month discovering more about the final moments of Jesus' life on earth. Before he went back to his Father, Jesus gave his disciples (*and us!*) a huge mission: tell the world about him. The message of Jesus was clear: it was their (*and is our!*) job to get the word out.

Bottom Line: Keep going even when it seems impossible. A lot can seem impossible. From learning to tie our shoes to reading paragraphs out loud on zoom to memorizing multiplication facts, to working with disagreeable co-workers, to prepping for virtual presentations, we will face all sorts of moments when we feel like everything is too hard, too big, or too long to finish. But that's where God comes in. Especially during this uncertain time that we're experiencing right now, we pray that we will start to understand that no matter what we face—impossible or not—we can trust God to help us through.

●● THEME VIDEO

What You Do: Watch this week's video in the comfort of your family's @ home prayer + worship spot. The video can be found on popmn.org/cm or facebook.com/popchildrens. Then use this Family Guide, the GodTime, ParentCue, and FAITH5 daily devos to keep the conversation going...

●● AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK?

What You Need: Spark Story Bible (*or any Bible/children's Bible*)

What You Do: Read today's Bible Story, "The Great Commission" (p. 496-497) and "The Ascension" (p. 498-499) in the Spark Story Bible (*or Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11 in any Bible/children's Bible*)

What You Say: "It must have been AMAZING for the disciples to see Jesus go up toward heaven! But they were probably also wondering how they would be able to carry out the task he gave them to tell the whole world about him. It must have seemed impossible! But do you know what? They kept going. They told as many people as they could about Jesus.

"God wants us to keep going, too, even when something seems impossible. Maybe you had a hard time getting along with your brother or sister today, and it seems impossible to think about trying to do a better job tomorrow. Or maybe you really miss your friends and family during this time of social distancing, and it seems impossible not to be able to see them right now.

Or maybe you just want things to go back to the way they were and it seems like we'll be stuck at home like this forever. But we can show determination and **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**"

•• THAT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE

What You Need: Knotted bandanas, decks of cards, preschool puzzles (*or modify to use whatever you have on hand*)

What You Do:

- Challenge your family to a race while doing some seemingly impossible tasks:
 - Knotted bandanas (*or dish towels*): Try to untie the knots in 20 seconds or less.
 - Decks of cards (*or puzzle pieces*): Try to pick up an entire deck of scattered cards in 20 seconds or less.
 - Preschool puzzles (*or LEGO structure*): Try to put together a puzzle in 20 seconds or less.
- If anyone has trouble doing the tasks in 20 seconds, let them try again until they can accomplish it.
- If your family can easily do the tasks in 20 seconds, challenge them to do it in 15 seconds or even 10 seconds. The point is to make it seem impossible, though it's actually doable if they just keep going and trying.

What You Say: "Wow! These tasks seemed impossible, but when we kept going, we were able to get them done. Sometimes life is like that. Maybe you think you will NEVER be able to tie your shoes! But if you keep trying, one of these days, you'll get it! Or maybe you think reading an entire chapter book is absolutely impossible. It's not! Or what about mastering a meeting on Google Meet? God can help us have determination and **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**"

•• YOU'VE GOT TO MOVE IT

What You Do:

- As a family, practice saying this month's memory verse together: "Stay excited about your faith as you serve the Lord. When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful." (*Romans 12:11-12 NIV*)
- Point out key words such as "excited," "joyful," and "pray," that can easily be translated into motions.
- Brainstorm together to come up with appropriate motions for the verse.
- Then, practice saying the verse with the motions until everybody can do it easily.

What You Say: "We kept going and didn't give up when we were learning the verse, coming up with the motions, REMEMBERING the motions, and then putting it all together! God wants us to keep going no matter what. But do you know what? We don't have to do it all on our own. God will help us! God helps us **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**"

•• PRAY

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle and take turns praying the [Bottom Line] for the person on your left: "God, help [person's name] keep going even when it seems impossible."
- Close by praying: "God, we are so thankful that you always give us what we need! Even though we sometimes run into sticky situations and challenges, you are always here to help us **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.** You're so awesome, God! We love you! Thank you for loving us. Amen."

•• ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Download the **GodTime Card**, **ParentCue Card**, and **FAITH5** at popmn.org/cm. Use them this week to continue the conversation around our bottom line: **[Bottom Line] keep going even when it seems impossible.**

•• WHAT'S NEXT

Set a reminder to join us for WOW @home on Wednesday 05/13 at 6:00 pm live at facebook.com/popchildrens or on demand at popmn.org/youtube for a time of worship centered around next week's theme.