

Week Seven – God can do anything – Overview

Passage	Big Idea
SS) Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7	God can do anything
FBT1) John 11	God can do anything – Believe it!
FBT2) Luke 18:24-30	God can do anything – He can save anyone
FBT3) 2 Corinthians 1:8-10	God can do anything – Rely on Him not yourself
FBT4) 2 Timothy 1:12	God can do anything – Have patience in suffering
FBT5) Ephesians 3:20-21	God can do anything – Praise Him!

Family Bible Time (Day 1) – John 11

BIG IDEA	God can do anything – Believe it!
Bible Passage	John 11 (NB only selected verses to read – see below)
Getting Started	<p>Ask the children about things that happen in life that make them feel like they can't do anything about it. Is there something in your life at the moment that you can't figure out how to solve? Maybe there is some sin that you can't get rid of, or someone at school that you don't know how to deal with. <i>This might be a good opportunity to talk about something you are working on in their behaviour, for example.</i> Sometimes, things happen in life that don't seem to have any answers. We are going to read about a situation that Jesus faced that was like that.</p>
<p>Finding Out</p> <p>1. Jesus puts us in impossible situations (v.6)</p>	<p>Jesus had three very good friends. Their names were Mary, Martha and Lazarus – they were brother and sisters. They lived in a town called Bethany. One day, Lazarus became very sick, so his two sisters sent a message to Jesus. They told Jesus that his good friend, Lazarus, was very ill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: If you heard that your best friend was very sick, what would you want to do? • Q: What do you think Jesus did when he heard that his friend Lazarus was sick? <p>Read John 11:6</p> <p>Does that surprise you? Jesus didn't rush to be with his friend, he stayed exactly where he was.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Could Jesus have healed Lazarus if he had gone to him? <p>Remember from Sunday School we learnt that God can do anything! He was able to give Sarah and Abraham a baby when they were far too old to have babies. He could easily have healed Lazarus. But instead of going to him and helping him, he stayed where he was. Jesus had a good reason for doing this. After two more days, Jesus told his disciples they were going to travel to Bethany. His disciples thought Jesus was finally going to help Lazarus, but this is what Jesus said.</p> <p>Read John 11:14</p> <p>So they were too late! Jesus had waited two days to go to Bethany, and now Lazarus was dead!</p>
2. To help us believe God can do anything	<p>Jesus could have gone straight away to Bethany. He could have healed Lazarus. Instead he waited for two more days. He waited until Lazarus was dead before he went.</p>

(v.15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Why do you think Jesus waited instead of going to Bethany straight away?</i> Jesus gave his disciples the answer to that question. <p>Read John 11:15 Jesus was going to do something even more special and amazing than healing Lazarus.</p> <p>Read John 11:38-44 Jesus showed that he could not only heal people, he could also raise them from the dead!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Why did Jesus say he did this miracle? (v.42)</i> Jesus wanted the people that saw him do this to believe in him. He chose to wait until Lazarus had died before he came to Bethany. He did that so he could show everyone that he can do anything, even raise people from the dead! He wanted people to see that he can do anything, so that they would believe in him.
So What?	Sometimes God puts things in your life that seem impossible. (<i>Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity</i>). God sometimes puts things like that in our lives so that we remember that he can do impossible things. Ask for his help and believe he can do anything. <i>Pray for God's help with your impossible situation.</i>
Memory Verse	Psalm 145:3 <i>Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.</i>

Family Bible Time (Day 2) – Luke 18:24-30

BIG IDEA	God can do anything – He can save anyone
Bible Passage	Luke 18:24-30
Getting Started	If possible, get hold of a needle and thread and a picture of a camel. Ask the children to try and thread the needle. Talk about how hard it is. Now show the picture of the camel. What if I asked you to thread the camel through the needle – could you do it? It's an impossible thing to try and do. Jesus talked about something that is just as impossible for us to do as trying to thread a camel through a needle!
Finding Out 1. The impossible situation – no one can be saved (v.24-26) 2. God can do the impossible – He can	One day, a man came to see Jesus. He had a question for Him. Read Luke 18:18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What question did the man ask Jesus?</i> The man wanted to know how he could be saved and get to heaven. He asked Jesus what he needed to do. Jesus told him that he needed to obey God perfectly. He needed to put God first, above everything else, and follow Jesus. • <i>Q: Is anyone able to obey God perfectly?</i> No one is able to obey God perfectly. None of us are able to live up to his standard for our lives. <i>Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity.</i> Just like it is impossible to thread a camel through a needle, it is impossible for us to get ourselves to heaven. We can't do it! The people who were listening to Jesus realised what this meant. Read Luke 18:26 It means we are stuck! We cannot be saved. We cannot get to heaven. It is impossible. But remember, we have been learning that God can do anything, even things that are impossible for us.

save (v.27-30)	<p>Read Luke 18:27</p> <p>Jesus agreed with the crowd of people listening. “Yes, it is impossible for you”, he said. But it is not impossible for God. God can do anything – He can even save people that are impossible to save! Jesus has promised to save everyone who comes to him. If we say sorry, and trust him to save us, then he will! And we can trust that he will, because he can do things that are impossible for us.</p> <p>Read Luke 18:29-30</p> <p>Jesus promises that anyone who trusts him will have eternal life. That was the answer to the man’s question. We can’t do anything to be saved – but Jesus can!</p>
So What?	<p>Jesus can save anyone. If you come to him, he can even save you. Do you have friends at school that do not yet know Jesus? He can save them too. That’s why we can pray that God would save our unbelieving friends, because he can do the impossible. <i>Pray for those who you know who are not yet saved.</i></p>
Memory Verse	<p>Psalms 145:3</p> <p><i>Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.</i></p>

Family Bible Time (Day 3) – 2 Corinthians 1:8-10

BIG IDEA	God can do anything – Rely on Him not yourself
Bible Passage	2 Corinthians 1:8-10
Getting Started	<p>If possible, get some spaghetti or straws. Get the children to build a tower out of the spaghetti/straws (may need to use cello tape also) – or else just describe it. Ask them how strong they think their tower is. Could you rely on it to take your weight? Compare their tower to a chair. Can you rely on the chair to take your weight? Explain that if you are relying on something, you trust it enough to support you.</p>
<p>Finding Out</p> <p>1. Relying on ourselves leads to despair (v.8)</p> <p>2. Relying on God leads to hope (v.9-10)</p>	<p>Paul was a missionary, who went to lots of different places to tell people about Jesus. It wasn’t always easy for him. This is what he said his life had been like.</p> <p>Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q: <i>What sorts of things had happened to Paul during his life? How do you think he felt when those things were happening to him?</i> <p>Paul tells us how he felt when he was going through these things.</p> <p>Read 2 Corinthians 1:8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q: <i>How does Paul describe his life and how it made him feel?</i> <p>Paul says he was under great pressure, so much so that he despaired – which means he was very sad. He realised that the things he was facing were too much for him. They were “beyond his ability to endure” so they made him want to just give up.</p> <p>But God allowed these things to happen to Paul for a reason.</p> <p>Read 2 Corinthians 1:9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q: <i>What was the reason God allowed Paul to go through all these bad things?</i> <p>Paul says that these things happened to him to teach him something. Through all the bad things that happened, Paul learned that it was much better to rely on God than to rely on himself. When he relied on himself, and tried to do things in his own strength, it just made him sad because he found out that he wasn’t strong enough to cope with</p>

	<p>everything. But when he relied on God, everything was different.</p> <p>Read 2 Corinthians 1:10</p> <p>Paul says that when he relied on God, instead of being sad and despairing, he had hope. He knew that God was the one who was able to save him, because God can do anything. Even if Paul was to die, he knew that God could even raise him from the dead, so God is the best person to rely on.</p>
So What?	<p><i>Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity. We are like the tower made from spaghetti/straws. We like to think we are strong and can rely on ourselves but if we actually put it to the test, we find out that we fail (like if we sat on the tower!). But God is like the chair. He can be relied on, no matter what happens. If you are feeling sad or frustrated about something, it might be because you are trying to rely on yourself. It is much better to rely on God for help. Then even if bad things happen, you can trust God to be your help.</i></p>
Memory Verse	<p>Psalm 145:3</p> <p><i>Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.</i></p>

Family Bible Time (Day 4) – 2 Timothy 1:12

BIG IDEA	God can do anything – Have confidence in suffering
Bible Passage	2 Timothy 1:12
Getting Started	<p>Once when I was a child, my sister and I went for a walk through a forest with our Dad. We got a little bit lost! My dad told my sister and me to wait by a tree, while he went to find the right path. Well, my dad took ages and ages to come back! My sister and I started to get frightened. We thought our dad had left us all on our own and that he was never coming back! Of course, my dad would never do that! He did come back to rescue us, and showed us the right way out of the forest. When my sister and I were there by ourselves we felt like our dad had abandoned us. But that was not the truth. My dad would never abandon his daughters, he was actually doing something that was for our good, and in the end it worked out exactly as he said it would! Sometimes, things happen in life that make it seem like God has abandoned us – but as we will see, this is never true.</p>
<p>Finding Out</p> <p>1. Life involves suffering (v.12)</p> <p>2. God has promised to keep us to the end, so have confidence in</p>	<p>Remember last time we found out that Paul had suffered through lots of difficult things in his life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What sorts of things had happened to Paul? (2 Corinthians 11:24-28)</i> <p>God has told us that sometimes bad things happen in life. And bad things will continue to happen, until Jesus comes back again. Sometimes Christians in particular suffer, because there are people in the world that don't like Jesus, and so don't like the people that follow Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Do you know of any Christians that are suffering at the moment?</i> <p>Sometimes, it might seem like God has given up on his people, and that is why they are suffering. But Paul tells us that this is never true.</p> <p>Read 2 Timothy 1:12</p> <p>Paul wrote this letter to his friend Timothy. At the time, Paul was going through another</p>

suffering (v.12)	hard time; he had been thrown into prison. But Paul says that even though he is suffering, he has no reason to be ashamed of God. God has not let him down. God had made him a promise. Just like in the story, when we thought my dad had abandoned us in the forest, it looked like God had abandoned Paul, but actually God was there helping him all along. He had promised Paul that he would always be with him, and that no matter what happened, one day Paul would be in heaven with God. Paul says here that he believes God is able to keep that promise. He knows that God can do anything, so he can look after him, even when he is suffering, and he will make sure that Paul makes it safely to heaven in the end.
So What?	Is there something that you are finding difficult at the moment? (<i>You might want to talk about things they are finding hard</i>). God knows that you find this hard, and He can get you through anything. If you are trusting in Jesus, he can get you all the way through life, right to the very end. And then he can get you safely to heaven. We know this because we know God can do anything. So even if bad things happen, you can still trust God to get you through.
Memory Verse	Psalm 145:3 <i>Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.</i>

Family Bible Time (Day 5) – Ephesians 3:20-21

BIG IDEA	God can do anything – Praise Him!
Bible Passage	Ephesians 3:20-21
Getting Started	Make a list of some Christians you know of from throughout history. This could be from the bible, from books they have read, groups of people, or Christians they know now.
Finding Out 1. God can do more than we ask or imagine (v.20) 2. He deserves praise forever (v.21)	<p>Ephesians is another letter that was written by Paul. Just like 2 Timothy, Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison. This is how he finishes his letter.</p> <p>Read Ephesians 3:20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What does this verse say God can do?</i> <p>Even though Paul was in prison, he still believed that God was able to do anything. He can do more than we ask, he can even do more than we imagine! Whatever you can imagine, God can do even more than that! And God chooses to use his power to work for our good. Paul says he uses his power to work within us – to change our hearts and make us more like Jesus.</p> <p>Read Ephesians 3:21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What does Paul say God deserves?</i> <p>Paul says that glory should go to God because of all that he is able to do. God’s people, his church, should be praising God because of all that he can do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How long should we be praising God for?</i> <p>This verse says that God should be praised through all generations – from the first people on earth, all the way through to the last people on earth. Even beyond that, God should be praised for ever and ever!</p>
So What?	God can do anything, which means he is able to keep all the promises that he has made. You can completely rely on God. If you know this, then you can be part of the

	generations of people throughout history that have been praising God for all that he has done and all that he can do. <i>Refer back to the “Getting Started” activity.</i> All these people have praised God that he is able to keep his promises – you can join in with them. <i>Praise the God who can do more than we can ask or imagine.</i>
Memory Verse	Psalm 145:3 <i>Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.</i>

Recap Week 7

God can do anything. That means he can keep all of his promises. What are some promises that God has made? God is able to keep them all. He can even save you! God can do anything, so rely on him, not on yourself. Even when life is hard, you can still trust him to get you through. Trust God to keep his promises.