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A People of Community

WHAT CAN WE DO WHEN LIFE SEEMS OUT OF OUR CONTROL?

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The **POINT** ›

We can ask God to do the impossible and trust Him with the outcome.

› ACTS 12:1-19

[1] About that time King Herod violently attacked some who
belonged to the church, [2] and he executed James, John's
brother, with the sword. [3] When he saw that it pleased the
Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter too, during the Festival of
Unleavened Bread. [4] After the arrest, he put him in prison
and assigned four squads of four soldiers each to guard him,
intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover.
[5] So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was praying
fervently to God for him. [6] When Herod was about to bring
him out for trial, that very night Peter, bound with two
chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while the sentries
in front of the door guarded the prison. [7] Suddenly an angel
of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. Striking
Peter on the side, he woke him up and said, "Quick, get up!"
And the chains fell off his wrists. [8] "Get dressed," the angel
told him, "and put on your sandals." And he did. "Wrap your
cloak around you," he told him, "and follow me." [9] So he went
out and followed, and he did not know that what the angel did
was really happening, but he thought he was seeing a vision.
[10] After they passed the first and second guards, they came to
the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened to them by
itself. They went outside and passed one street, and suddenly
the angel left him. [11] When Peter came to himself, he said,
"Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent his angel and
rescued me from Herod's grasp and from all that the Jewish
people expected." [12] As soon as he realized this, he went to
the house of Mary, the mother of John who was called Mark,
where many had assembled and were praying. [13] He knocked
at the door of the outer gate, and a servant named Rhoda
came to answer. [14] She recognized Peter's voice, and because
of her joy, she did not open the gate but ran in and announced
that Peter was standing at the outer gate. [15] "You're out of
your mind!" they told her. But she kept insisting that it was
true, and they said, "It's his angel." [16] Peter, however, kept on
knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they
were amazed. [17] Motioning to them with his hand to be silent,
he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the
prison. "Tell these things to James and the brothers," he said,
and he left and went to another place. [18] At daylight, there was
a great commotion among the soldiers as to what had become
of Peter. [19] After Herod had searched and did not find him,
he interrogated the guards and ordered their execution. Then
Herod went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:
The earliest maritime civilizations, such as the Egyptians, Phoenicians, and Greeks, used perforated stones or baskets filled with rocks as anchors to keep their boats in place.[1]



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // CHURCH
The church isn't a place or a building but consists of the people who belong to the family of God. We can come together as a community and lift up the needs of others.

There are moments in life when everything feels out of control, when our circumstances change suddenly, obstacles pile up, and hope seems just out of reach. Maybe it's a personal loss, a family crisis, or just the stress of everyday life. In those times, it's easy to feel powerless, like we're tumbling in a storm without direction or anchor. Yet, as followers of Christ, we are never truly without hope. When life seems overwhelming, one of the greatest gifts God has given us is the ability and invitation to pray.

Prayer is not a last resort or a stab in the dark. Prayer is our lifeline to the One who holds all things together, even when our world seems to be falling apart. The Bible reminds us of this promise in Philippians 4:6 (CSB): "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." To pray is to admit that we don't have all the answers, but God does and He welcomes our honest cries for help. Through fervent, wholehearted prayer, God steadies our hearts, clarifies our direction, and brings peace, even in life's chaos.

ACTS 12:1-5

1 **When you face an overwhelming situation, do you try to handle it yourself, or do you go to God in prayer?**

2 **How can you make prayer your "Plan A"?**

THE POINT // WE CAN ASK GOD TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE AND TRUST HIM WITH THE OUTCOME.

ACTS 12:6-10

3 What does Peter's ability to rest before his trial tell you about trusting God during overwhelming circumstances?

4 How do you respond when you feel trapped by your own difficulties?

5 How can you trust God for a way through your obstacles?

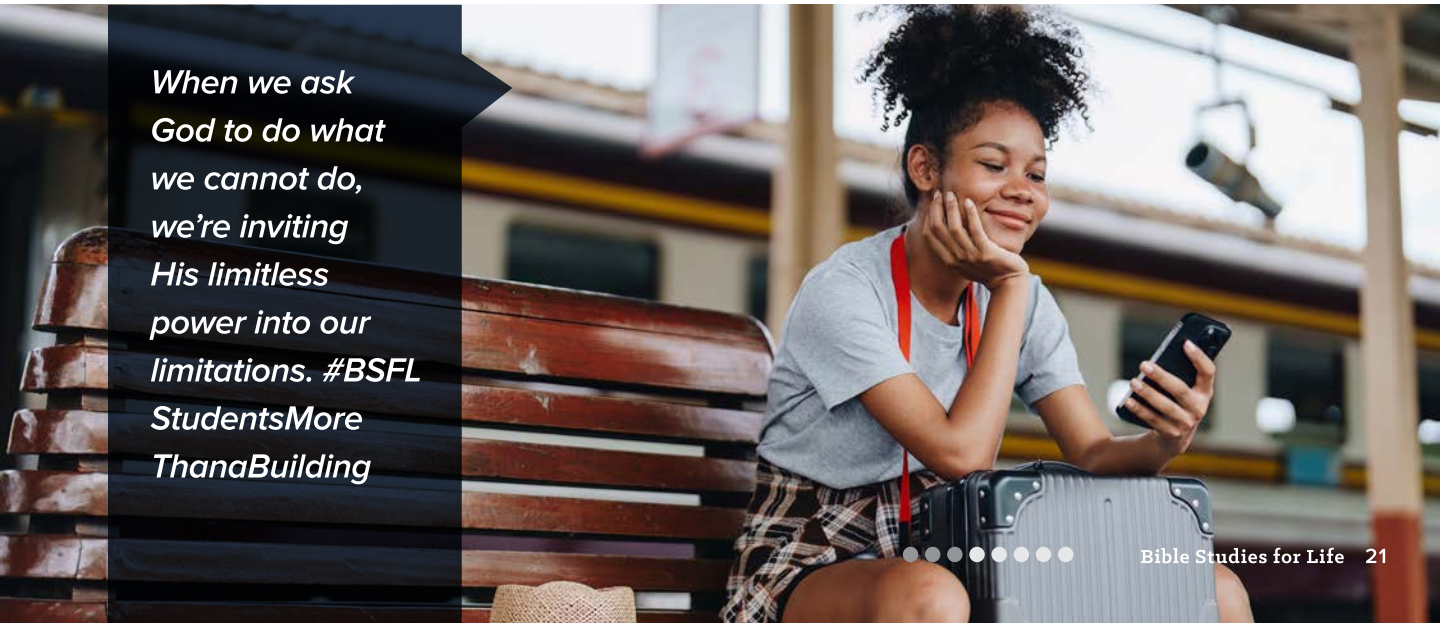
ACTS 12:11-19

6 Have you ever been surprised by the way God answered a prayer, perhaps in a way you didn't expect? Explain.

7 If you're in a tough situation now, what would it look like to surrender control of the outcome to God?

8 How do you respond when God's answer doesn't match your prayers or expectations?

When we ask God to do what we cannot do, we're inviting His limitless power into our limitations. #BSFL StudentsMore ThanaBuilding



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // CHURCH

The church isn't a place or a building but consists of the people who belong to the family of God. We can come together as a community and lift up the needs of others.

Our world is full of chaos, and life can often seem out of control. Nothing surprises God and He can do the impossible. His way and will are always better, even if we don't see it immediately.

CHRIST

9 **How can you follow Christ's example by surrendering your fears, impossible situations, and desired outcomes to God, trusting that He works all things for your good and His glory?**

10 **Jesus is still able to break chains, open doors, and accomplish the impossible for those who call on His name. This week, how can you bring your greatest needs to Jesus in faith?**

GOD
JESUS
HOLY SPIRIT
BIBLE
SALVATION
CREATION
CHURCH
PEOPLE
FAMILY
COMMUNITY & WORLD

THE POINT // WE CAN ASK GOD TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE AND TRUST HIM WITH THE OUTCOME.

COMMUNITY



11 In what ways can you join with your Bible study group to pray boldly and consistently for those who are facing seemingly impossible situations?

12 How can your group become a place where you regularly share testimonies of answered prayer and God's faithfulness, encouraging one another to trust God for outcomes beyond what any one person can imagine?

CULTURE

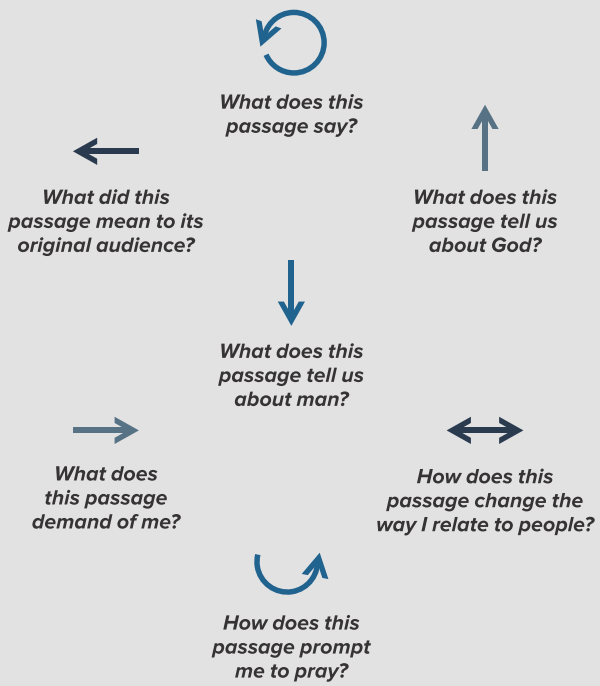
13 In a culture that values self-reliance and quick solutions, how can your Bible study group create a culture of prayerful dependence on God as a first response and not the last resort?

14 How can you help create a group environment where you welcome God's unexpected answers, celebrate who He is, and encourage one another to surrender your expectations to God's greater story?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of **Bible Reading**



Day One
GALATIANS 6:2

The Christian life was never meant to be lived alone, and Paul reminds us that part of following Jesus is coming alongside one another in times of need. Whether it's praying for a friend, listening to someone's struggles, or helping in practical ways, carrying each other's burdens reflects the compassionate heart of Christ. When we reach out to support someone else, we become an expression of Jesus's love and grace.

Building a community that cares requires intentionality. It means noticing when others are struggling and being willing to step in, even when it's inconvenient. In lifting one another up, we help create a church family where no one walks alone. This shared life not only strengthens us individually, but it also points others to Jesus by fulfilling His command to love one another as He has loved us.

- **Who in your life is carrying a heavy burden right now, and how can you come alongside this person this week?**

- **What practical steps can you take to help build a more supportive and caring community in your church or Bible study group?**

Day Two
JEREMIAH 32:17



Jeremiah prayed these words during a time when everything around him seemed hopeless. The city was under siege, and the future for everyone looked grim. But Jeremiah's focus turned from the bad circumstances to God's unlimited power. He remembered that the Creator of the universe is not limited by human struggles or impossibilities. This kind of faith grows when we intentionally remind ourselves of who God is and how He has worked in the past.

When we face our own impossible situations, it's easy to be overwhelmed by what we see. But Jeremiah's prayer teaches us to bring our impossibilities before God; nothing is too difficult for Him. We can boldly ask God for what only He can do, and then trust Him with the outcome, knowing His power and love are greater than anything we face.

- **What situation in your life right now feels impossible, and how can you bring it honestly before God in prayer?**

- **How does remembering God's past faithfulness help strengthen your trust in His power for today's challenges?**

Day Three
MATTHEW 19:26

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples after they struggled to understand how anyone could be saved. This verse reminds us that God's power is not limited by human boundaries. What we can't do in our own strength, He can accomplish in His perfect wisdom and timing. There are many situations in life where our resources, abilities, or understanding falls short, but Jesus assures us that God's ability is always greater.

For us, this means facing our challenges with faith rather than fear. When we encounter impossible relationships or our hopes seem too far gone, we are invited to trust in the God who specializes in possibilities. Our job is not to solve every problem but to bring them to Jesus and believe that He can do far more than we can imagine.

- **What's one area of your life where you need to trust God for the impossible this week?**

- **How can you remind yourself to rely on God's strength rather than your own when facing difficult situations?**

Day Four
MARK 11:22-24

Jesus encourages us to approach God with bold and confident faith. He invites us to bring even our biggest challenges—our "mountains"—to Him, trusting that He is able to move them according to His will and purpose. When we come to God in prayer, He doesn't want us weighed down by doubt but filled with a belief that He hears and acts. The impossible circumstances we face are not insurmountable for Him, and prayer becomes our way to invite God's power into our lives.

Having faith doesn't guarantee we will receive everything we ask for, but it does mean trusting deeply in God's goodness and ability. When we pray with confidence and release our worries to Him, we open the door for God to work in ways we might not expect. True faith stands firm, even when answers are slow in coming, because we know the One who hears us can do the impossible.

- **What "mountain" in your life do you need to bring to God in prayer this week?**

- **How can you practice trusting God's promises, even when you don't see Him working immediately?**

Day Five
EPHESIANS 3:20



Sometimes our prayers feel small compared to the challenges we face, but God's power knows no limits. He is able to do far more than we could ever ask or even imagine, working in ways we can't see. When we bring our requests to Him, we can trust that His answers are shaped by infinite wisdom, love, and creativity—the same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in our everyday lives. This truth gives us freedom to dream bigger, pray boldly, and trust deeper.

Even when life feels overwhelming or our hopes seem out of reach, God invites us to place our confidence in Him. Our faith isn't in our own abilities or understanding but in His greatness. As we learn to surrender our limitations to God, we open our lives to possibilities beyond our wildest dreams. Let this truth encourage you to keep believing and asking for greater things, trusting that God is always working for your good and His glory.

- **How can you begin to pray more boldly, trusting that God can do more than you imagine?**

- **What is one area of your life where you need to surrender your limitations and trust in God's ability?**