

John 4:46-5:15

With Jesus Nothing Is Impossible!

Scripture: John 4:46-5:15

Memory Verse: Luke 1:37 *"For with God nothing will be impossible."*

Lesson Focus: This text takes us through two more amazing examples of Jesus doing the impossible. We want the kids to not only be amazed at Jesus, but to also see that He is the only solution to the impossible problem of our sin and guilt.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Memory Verse and Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: The Lame can Walk Craft

Starter Activity: Impossible Challenges

Consider starting off the lesson with a few silly physical challenges that are essentially impossible to do (but don't tell the kids that beforehand!).

Have several of these physical challenges ready to go and invite some willing volunteers up one-by-one to attempt them.

Wall Toe Touch: Invite someone up who claims to be very flexible and have them show the class that they can touch their toes with their legs completely straight. Then, have them stand with their heels and backs against a wall and have them try again!

Wall Hug Foot Lift: Invite someone up who claims to have good balance and have them show the class that they can balance on one foot. Then, have them stand sideways with one shoulder, hip, and foot pressed tightly against a wall. Now have them lift that outside foot!

Elbow Kiss: Invite someone up who likes to show affection to people that they love. * Then, have them show the class how to give the outside of your elbow a kiss. Invite the rest of the class to try this too.

Q: What do all of these silly challenges have in common? A: They are impossible! Whether due to natural laws of science or how our bodies are designed and structured, these are things that we simply cannot do.

Yet, what we are going to see in our study today is how Jesus (more than once!) makes what seems impossible, actually possible! Let's open our Bibles and take a look!

Bible Study:

John 4:46: In the first part of chapter 4 we saw Jesus do something that seemed pretty impossible to His disciples: He entered enemy territory (Samaria) * in kindness/mercy towards a woman who everyone else rejected. She responded to Jesus in faith and many in her village did as well! Now He is coming back to familiar territory.
Q: What did Jesus do in Cana earlier? A: The impossible: turning water into wine!

John 4:47-48: This man most likely has heard how Jesus turned the water to wine and is begging Jesus for help. However, based on Jesus's response it seems that the people there were less interested in who Jesus was and following Him, and more interested in merely seeing more signs and wonders. They wanted a show more than a Savior!

John 4:49: Yet, the nobleman continued to plead with Jesus! It's clear he isn't looking for a show. His son is dying and he at least believes that Jesus is the only solution to this problem.

John 4:50a: Wait, what? WHOA! * Jesus just speaks and says that the son is healed?

John 4:50b: And notice the response of the father!

Q: What did it say the father did? A: He believed and trusted in Jesus! He didn't require Jesus to come back with him and work some miracle over him in person. Jesus's word was good enough for him.

John 4:51: Where the man lived (Capernaum) was several miles away from Cana so this was a decent journey back home. Imagine what was going through his mind on this long journey (wondering if Jesus actually healed him?) only to be confirmed by his servants who met him halfway!

John 4:52-54: Now imagine being the servants who were at home and tending to their master's dying son to have him suddenly and impossibly be healed of whatever sickness was about to take his life. * They rushed over to Cana so they could tell their master the good news. They also remembered EXACTLY when it happened and it was EXACTLY when Jesus said the words, "*your son lives*"! WOW! *

Q: What was the response of the man and his whole household? A: They believed and trusted in Jesus!

Remember this was why Jesus did the impossible. It wasn't to entertain, it wasn't to show off, but it was so that people would believe that He was the Son of God who came to rescue people from sin and death.

John 5:1-2: Jesus now enters Jerusalem, which was the center of Jewish religious life back in the day. This pool of Bethesda is a place that archaeologists have dug up and you can visit and see the remains of it today! Remember that what we read about in the Bible are REAL people and REAL places, not fairy tales!

John 5:3-4: Apparently there was some superstition surrounding this pool and many sick and disabled people would camp out there waiting for the waters to magically heal them. They were looking for the impossible to happen, but they were looking in the wrong place!

John 5:5: The story now zooms in on this one man in particular who was paralyzed.
Q: How long did it say that he had been suffering from this? A: 38 years! Many of your parents are probably around 38 years old. Imagine being unable to walk for that long! *
(**Teachers:** Consider grabbing some rope or twine from the resource room. Ask for a volunteer and tie them up from shoulders to ankles with their arms at their side and their legs together. Then gently lay them on the floor and ask them to get up and walk!)

John 5:6: Jesus sees this man and asks him a very important question.

Q: What does Jesus ask him? A: *Do you want to be made well?* A very simple question.

John 5:7: While the man clearly wants to be made well, his eyes are looking to the pool to rescue him, not Jesus.

John 5:8: I think the man's gaze has now shifted away from the pool and onto Jesus. This must have sounded crazy to this man who hadn't walked in 38 years!

John 5:9: But he did as Jesus said, got up, and walked for the first time in 38 years! Wow! Impossible! * Both here and with the healing of the dying son, it was the word of Jesus that made the difference. Just like how God spoke the world into being at creation, Jesus, the Son of God, spoke these miraculous healings into being!

John 5:10: The Sabbath was a day God gave to Israel to rest. These Jews, maybe some of them religious leaders, focus not on the amazing reality that this paralyzed man is now walking but that their own ridiculous religious rules were being broken. *

John 5:11-13: They want to know who is responsible for this and the man doesn't know, because Jesus had slipped away (probably because the crowds were gathering).

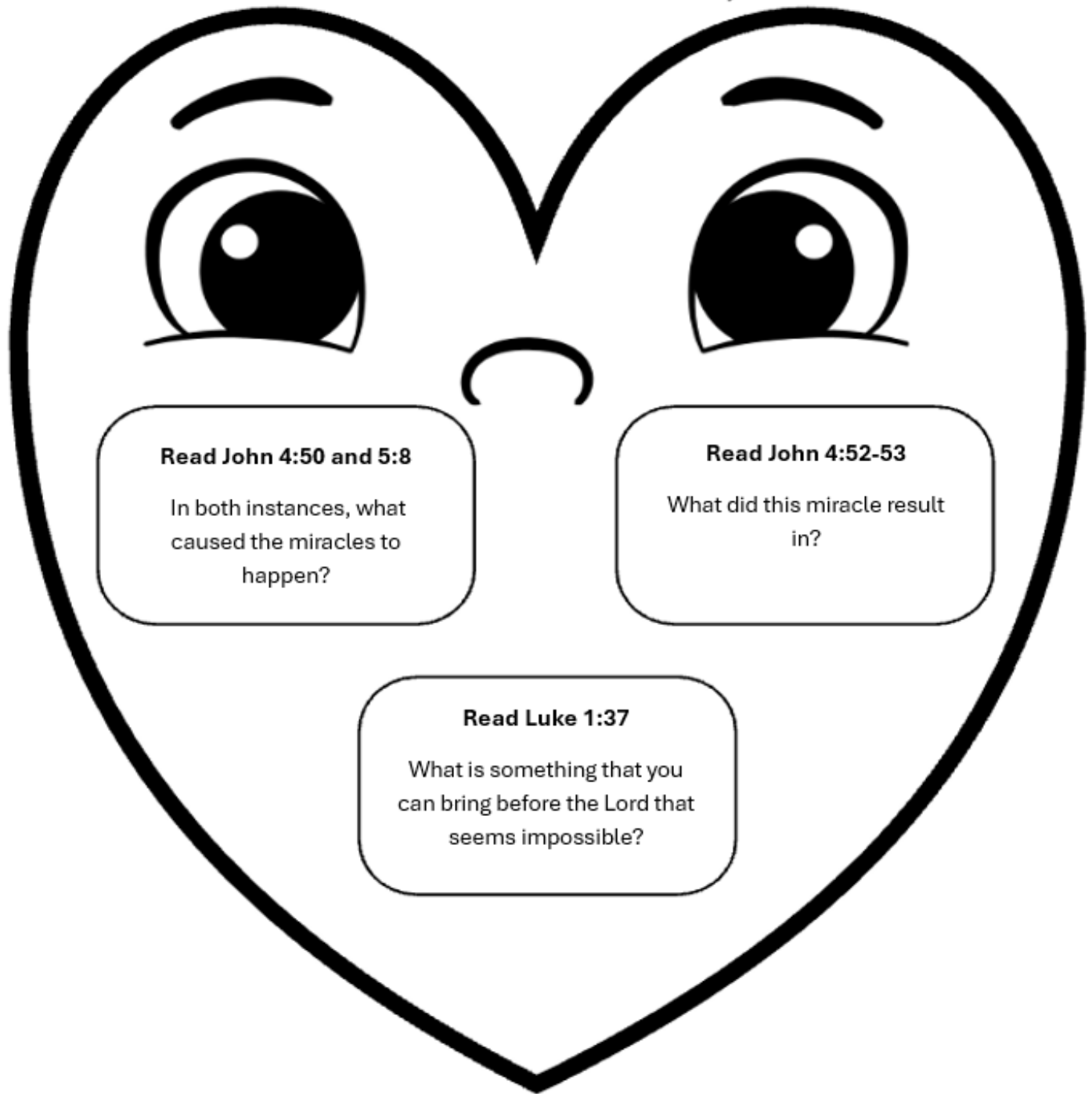
John 5:14-15: But later Jesus meets him and both encourages him and challenges him.

Q: What does He say to Him? A: Sin no more. Sin has consequences! Apparently, this man's paralysis was due to some foolish sin from long ago. The Bible doesn't tell us much more about this man, but hopefully He listened to Jesus and followed Him!

Key Point: Twice in this passage Jesus was the only solution to an impossible problem. Let's close by remembering that Jesus is the only solution to the impossible problem of our sin. We cannot save ourselves! Only Jesus can forgive and rescue us and we must believe and trust in Him. If you're not a believer in Jesus, I think He would ask you the same Q: *"Do you want to be made well?"* If you are a believer in Jesus, I think He would say the same to you this week: *"You have been made well....sin no more!"*. Let's go into our week amazed not only at His power, but at His love for us sinners and let's follow Him, walking not in sin, but in His ways by the power of the Holy Spirit!

BRING IT HOME

BEHOLD what manner of **LOVE** the Father has bestowed on us,



that we should be called children of God!