



Send Me on My Way

Bible Story: Send Me on My Way (Jesus' Final Orders to His Disciples / Ascension) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11*

Bottom Line: Keep going even when it seems impossible.

Key Question: What seems impossible to you?

Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9 (NirV)

Life App: Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game , movie opening (Scoob, Artemis Fowl, etc.), a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

Opener

HOST: “Hey everyone! I am so pumped for another month here at *[Name of Environment]*. Have you ever felt stuck? Maybe literally stuck in a mud pit on a rainy day at summer camp. Or maybe you found yourself stuck in a situation where you just couldn't wait to get out—like these last few weeks of school! Either way, there are times when we feel stuck and need to get UNstuck! Times when we need to keep going, do what needs to be done, and finish what we start. In short, don't give up!”

“This month is all about getting Unstuck! And with that in mind, let's get started with a game I like to call ‘Bubble-Bubble, Tricky-Sticky Trouble.’”

CG: *“Bubble-Bubble, Tricky-Sticky Trouble” Title Slide*

“This game is pretty simple. I need three contestants who think they can blow a pretty good size bubble gum bubble.”

Host chooses three volunteers, brings them up to the front, and introduces them to the rest of the kids.

HOST: “Alright, let's see you all blow a bubble . . .”

SFX: *Upbeat Game Music*

Gives each of them a piece of bubble gum and lets them blow a bubble.

HOST: “Pretty good! Okay, now let’s get rid of that piece [*have them place it in the trash*] and try it again. Only this time, let’s make it a little more . . . interesting. Here.”

Host hands each kid five Saltine crackers and two pieces of bubble gum.

HOST: “When I say go, you need to eat all five of these crackers. Once the crackers are gone, you can then unwrap the bubble gum and blow a bubble. The first person to blow a bubble wins.”

Note: This is harder than it sounds. The crackers will take all of the moisture out of their mouths. Keep a bottle of water nearby if anyone starts to choke. Otherwise, they shouldn’t drink (it defeats the purpose). If they try too early to blow the bubble, it will be full of cracker debris.

HOST: “That was great . . . and gross . . . but mostly great. Now, let’s stand and worship our amazing God together!”

Worship

Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey everybody! Great to see you. As we start this month, I bet you’re all really ready for school be over! The end of school makes me think about times in my life when I had something to do that I either really didn’t want to do or at least knew that it’d be hard for me to finish.”

Communicator shares a story about a time from their own life when they had to show determination to finish what they started similar to the one below.

“For me it was my senior year of high school. I’d been taking piano lessons for years, and every spring was a piano recital. I decided to learn this super-difficult, 15-page sonata. Not only would I have to play it, but I’d have to memorize it, too! I had totally underestimated the amount of time it would take to memorize such a long piece. I started out the fall of that school year with all sorts of energy. The piece was coming together. Line after line, page after page . . . But around Christmas, I realized that this was a lot of work. I might have even called it impossible. I didn’t think I’d ever learn that piece! But with some encouragement and lots and LOTS of practice, I ended up learning the piece and performing at my recital without any sheet music! It was seriously one of the hardest things I’ve ever had to do.”

“Now, what about you? Have you ever faced something like that? If so, I’d love to hear about it. Raise your hand if you can share a job, a task, an assignment . . . whatever . . . that felt impossible at the time. You didn’t even know where to start!”

Communicator calls on kids or Small Group Leaders to share. Comment on their responses and on how difficult it sounded. Ask the follow up question “What made them feel impossible?”

“Those are some great examples. I’m sure most of you could relate to their stories, and probably have some of your own stories as well.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “The truth is we’ve all been there one way or another. We can’t avoid things that seem impossible at times. Yet when we’re facing huge projects or difficult circumstances, we get overwhelmed and hardly know where to start. Sometimes we might start and give up. Other times, we might not start at all. But if we also run from the impossible, how will we ever get anything done? In other words, how should we respond in the face of the impossible? Great question, right? What’s awesome is that the Bible is full of people who faced the impossible or who weren’t sure how they’d do what God asked them to do. They’re a great place to start when we’re not sure how we’ll face the impossible. Let’s look at one of those moments right now.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “This morning we head to a moment shortly after Jesus’ death and resurrection. We don’t always remember that after Jesus rose from the dead He stayed around for 40 days teaching and preparing His disciples for what they needed to do next. We pick up the scene one day while Jesus was having a meal with the disciples. We find this is in the book of Acts.”

“(Read directly from Acts 1:4, NIV) ‘One day Jesus was eating with them. He gave them a command. ‘Do not leave Jerusalem,’ he said. ‘Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it.’”

“Now you would think Jesus’ first instruction would be something active like GO! PREACH! LOVE! But instead, Jesus’ first instruction seems a little strange. What was it again?”

Pause for responses.

“That’s right . . . WAIT. That’s not very active. I mean, what are they waiting for? Apparently, some kind of gift. Did they have Amazon Prime back then? What is going on here? Well, it says in the next verse . . .”

“(Read directly from Acts 1:5, NIV) ‘John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”

“The gift was the Holy Spirit . . . a gift the Father himself had promised. Jesus continued and talked about why the Holy Spirit would be so important.”

“(Read directly from Acts 1:8, NIV) ‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.’”

“The Holy Spirit would give these followers of Jesus the power to do a mission that seemed pretty impossible. Did you catch the mission? Jerusalem. All Judea and Samaria. One end of the earth to the other!”

“Let’s try to wrap our minds around what it must have been like to receive instructions like this. So when I was a kid *(or use a hypothetical example)* it was pretty common for kids to have a paper route. Does anyone even know what a paper route is anymore?”

Pause for responses.

“Before the internet was so readily available at home, many people would have the newspaper . . . a physical newspaper, delivered to their house. And not just the one with all the ads that you get from your town. These would have all the daily news that was happening around the world. And often times these papers would be delivered by paper boys and girls. *(Acting out)* They’d ride down the road, tuck a paper under their arm, and then chuck it hard at the front porch. Sometimes it would end up in the bushes but . . . close enough.”

“Stick with me here, I’m getting somewhere. Here’s our paper boy . . .”

CG: Story Slide 1 - Paper boy on bike with small stack of newspapers

Change the locations below to match your area (city, county, state)

“This guy right here has a job to do. He gets up every morning at 5 a.m., folds up newspapers, and delivers them to several neighborhoods on the northeast side of *[name of your town]*. It’s a big job, but he does it every day.”

“However, one day, his boss comes to him and says, ‘I need to expand your route . . .’”

CG: Story Slide 2 - Paper boy on bike with larger stack of newspapers

“I need you to deliver papers now to ALL of *[name of your town]* . . . north, south, east, AND west! Woah . . . that’s a lot of newspapers!”

“But that’s not all. Then his boss comes to him again and says, ‘Now I need you to expand your route . . .’”

CG: Story Slide 3 - Paper boy on bike with even larger stack of newspapers

“You will be delivering newspapers not just to the city of *[name of your town]* . . . but to all of *[name of your county]*!”

“You’re kidding, right! Who can do that?!”

“And before the paper boy has time to find another job . . . the boss says, ‘Actually . . .’”

CG: Story Slide 4 - Paper boy on bike with massive stack of newspapers

“I’m going to need you to deliver papers to the entire state of *[name of your state]* . . . scratch that . . .”

CG: Story Slide 5 - Paper boy completely covered up by newspapers

“The entire United States *[name of your country]!*”

“Now that seems like an impossible task, right? I wonder if that is a little bit of how the apostles felt when Jesus was laying out their mission for them.”

CG: Story Slide 6 - Map of Israel

“Jerusalem . . . okay that’s a pretty big city. Judea and Samaria . . . those are some pretty large regions . . . LOTS of people living there.”

CG: Story Slide 7 - Map of New Testament World

“FROM ONE END OF THE EARTH TO THE OTHER! Okay, Jesus! Now you have to be joking! That’s impossible for US to do!”

“And actually, they were right. THEY couldn’t do it. But with God’s Holy Spirit working in and through them—and the followers of Jesus who would come after them—little by little, the message of Jesus went out . . . to exactly where Jesus said it would go.”

“Well, at the end of the 40 days, Jesus led His disciples out to a place near Bethany, which is in Galilee. It was here that Jesus said the words that have come to be known as the Great Commission. (read directly from Matthew 28:18-20, NIV) ‘Then Jesus came to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”’”

“As Jesus sends them on this incredible mission . . . this mission that seems near impossible . . . He makes an incredible promise. I will be WITH you. You are not alone in this. A big task requires big power . . . and Jesus promises that!”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Right after these words, Jesus is taken up before their eyes to heaven, which may have seemed like a contradiction. He just promised He would always be with them, but then He went away. Remember, though, He gave them instructions to wait because soon God’s very Spirit would come and fill them with God’s presence and God’s power. We will actually see that moment next week.”

“But let’s get back to today’s truth. One of the great privileges we have as a follower of Jesus is to tell other people about Jesus . . . it is what Jesus himself was telling His disciples to do. We get to do that, too! We are a part of that mission! But that can feel a little overwhelming. There are a lot of people who don’t know Jesus. What if I don’t say the right words? What if they don’t want to hear about Jesus?”

“We have to remember that God gives us the power for what can seem like an impossible task. Sometimes it might be as simple as showing kindness or doing an act of love and then, rather than giving ourselves the credit for it, pointing to Jesus as the reason we did what we did. Or maybe we can invite a friend to church so they can come here to *[Name of Environment]* and learn about God’s great love for them!”

“In the face of the impossible, we must remember that God has not only promised His power, but He has promised His presence. Jesus said, ‘I am with you always!’ Remembering this can help to make the impossible feel a little more possible, for we can trust that Jesus is with us no matter what happens!”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Today as you go to groups, think about this question . . .”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What seems impossible to you?” Maybe it’s a difficult subject in school, a rival team who’s really good this year, or maybe a situation where you’re not sure how it will turn out. And as you think about what might be impossible in your life, remember this: you’re not alone. You can trust God no matter what. AND you have a Small Group here at church who you can count on to help you face the impossible, too. Before we head to those groups, let’s pray and thank God for being with us to face the impossible. Let’s pray!”