



# Christmas at The Cove

## Week 3 - Nothing Is Impossible

### Discussion Guide

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Christmas is a time of fantasy and whimsy. As adults, we know the reality of Santa and elves and such, but we play along. Yet in most other ways, we “outgrow” much of our ability to see beyond the tangible. However, it is not fanciful to believe that God works in miraculous ways. It is the most definite Truth. Let’s study what it takes to see God “do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” in our lives.

#### Jump Start

1. Have you ever seen something happen that, at first, seemed unexplainable or impossible? Was there a logical explanation?
2. *Develop the “Nothing is impossible with God” mindset. Basically, Do not doubt. Read Mark 9:23-24, Matthew 14:28-31, and Matthew 9:28.* What seems to be a key in seeing the impossible come to pass? What helps you stay strong in your faith while waiting on His rescue?
3. *Speak to your mountain.* We often talk about our problems to everyone except God. We highlight them and share our concerns, but we don’t remember to pray about them. Beyond praying, the Bible indicates we should speak directly to the problem. **Read Matthew 17:20, Mark 4:39, and Luke 4:38-39.** What “mountain” can you speak to today?
4. *Pray out loud and pray specifically. Read Acts 4:24, 29-30, and Matthew 18:19-20.* Mike made a good point: we know the prayers recorded in the Bible because someone heard them! They were “out loud” prayers. What other things do you see in these verses about prayer?
5. *Demonstrate your faith.* Mark 2:5 says, “And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’” Your faith has to move from your head and heart and cause you to take a step. Maybe you start packing boxes or make the phone call. Describe a time when God asked you to take an action to demonstrate that you believed He was about to come through for you?

6. Final Thought: Throughout the message, we heard that although your faith is personal, it shouldn't remain private. Jot down several different "impossible" moments you have experienced. Rehearse them in your mind. You should have a repertoire to pull out and share when someone is in need or crisis. Choose one of your stories of how God has worked in your life and share with your group. This will be practice for sharing with a neighbor, family member, or coworker who approaches you with a similar "impossible" situation.

### **Deeper**

**Read: Genesis 17:15-21, 18:9-15, Matt 9:18-24.** What was the initial attitude of the people surrounding these impossible stories? How do you personally react when presented with an impossible scenario?

**Read Genesis 21:1-7, Matthew 19:25-26.** What was the response after seeing the impossible happen? Have you ever experienced a time when God did the impossible for you? Or maybe He used you in bringing about the "impossible" in someone else's life? How did that affect your view of God?

**Read Matthew 9:1-8.** What was the *initial* impossible situation for the man? Jesus eventually turned that impossible situation around, but first He pointed out the *real* impossible situation. What is the *real* impossible situation presented here? Jesus used the *initial* impossible situation to draw the man to Him, then Jesus remedied the *real* impossible situation, the problem of sin. How have you seen God use this strategy in your life?