

INKED

some things don't change

THE IMPOSSIBLE • WEEK 6 • DEC. 23/24, 2011 (BOB MERRITT)

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had an impossible situation? Maybe you were in debt and there just didn't seem to be a way out. Or finding the perfect person to marry seemed hopeless. Or a family member who was fighting cancer and healing still hasn't come. Talk about impossible situations—Mary was told that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, Jesus, and she was a virgin! What seems impossible for man is possible with God! Use the scripture and questions below to help guide your discussion as a group.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. During the Christmas season when you were growing up, did you have any traditions? What was one of your most favorites? Were there any Christmas traditions you dreaded?
2. Reading the birth story is a celebrated tradition in many homes. Read the birth story foretold in **Luke 1:26-38**. How did Mary react to the news that she would conceive a son? How would you feel if you were in Mary or Joseph's place?
3. In verse 38, Mary responded to the angel. She didn't understand everything, but she was willing to accept whatever God wanted. Think about your life. Is there an area that's impossible or unattainable from a human standpoint? If you're willing, share it with the group.
4. Bob talked about two barriers that keep the impossible from becoming possible. The first barrier is an unwilling spirit. This is a tough one to deal with, but is there an area that you are unwilling to give to God?
5. The second barrier is people stop moving when they get stuck. A job loss, divorce, illness or a failure can cause you to get stuck. Maybe you are currently stuck. What happened that caused you to become stuck and stop moving?
6. Remember Bob's story about Andy Lutz, his nephew? His wife had two miscarriages and after several years of failed pregnancies, they finally had a son Danny, despite all odds and any medical explanation. The impossible happened! God wants to do the impossible in your life and others around you. Spend some time praying about the things that were shared in your group and see what God will do.

THINK ABOUT IT

If you are currently stuck because of something that happened in your past, remember God's promise to us. Nothing is impossible with God. This week, trust him in the area you feel is impossible and start moving toward God.

MEMORIZE For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. —Philippians 4:13

CHRISTMAS