

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FACING THE IMPOSSIBLE

The Gospel of Mark — Week 27

ICEBREAKER: How would you summarize the highs and lows of this past week?

OVERVIEW: Christians and non-Christians both face hard times. We all face impossible situations. The difference is in how we respond. For Christians, impossible situations are opportunities for us to experience God in an undeniable way. However, for God to accomplish His purpose in our pain, we must respond to pain appropriately. That's what this study is all about. Let's dig deeper and equip ourselves to face the next impossible situation that comes our way.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Mark 5:21-43.
 - a. Describe the situation facing the synagogue ruler, and the woman?
 - b. What did they do right in response to their problems?
 - c. How did Jesus use their problems to reveal Himself in an undeniable way?
3. Explain how impossible situations and hard times are opportunities for God to show Himself in an undeniable way.
4. How has God used tough circumstances to strengthen your faith, grow your character, deepen your walk with Him, or use you in a new way?
5. What are the wrong ways for a Christian to respond to tough times and impossible situations?

6. The first right response to problems is DON'T GIVE UP. Have you ever given up and later regretted it? Explain. What can you do to make sure that you don't give up the next time you face an impossible situation?
7. The second right response to problems is GET CLOSE TO JESUS. Do you agree that "everything in life depends on your nearness to Jesus?" Explain. What do you need to do to get close to Jesus so that you are ready for the storms of life?
8. The third right response to problems is HAVE FAITH IN THE GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE? Why is faith so essential during tough times? What truths about God do you need to have faith in so that you are ready for trials?
9. The fourth right response to impossible situations is PRAY. What helpful insights have you learned about prayer from your own experience over the years? What do you need to do to strengthen your prayer life?
10. The fifth right response to adversity is DO ALL THAT YOU CAN DO. Are some people so "spiritual" that it has resulted in laziness and inaction?
11. The final right response to hard times is IGNORE THE CRITICS. How can critics cause us to respond to problems in an unwise or ungodly way?
12. What insights and lessons have you learned over the years about handling adversity and impossible situations?

The Last Word: Impossible situations are opportunities for us to experience God in an undeniable way.