

WEEK 2

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God can do impossible things.

BIBLE

Elisha and The Shunammite's Son:
2 Kings 4:8–37; Colossians 1:3–14

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Some paintings are so large they seem impossible to make—especially when we're first learning about art! This week, we'll hear the story of when Elisha prayed for God to bring the Shunammite's son back to life. The Shunammite knew that what Elisha was asking was a big, impossible task that could never happen, but Elisha knew that **God can do impossible things**.

Welcome back to the *Imagine That!* art studio. See all the colorful paint all around you? This place is filled with some amazing art. It's a creative and inspiring place to learn more about how God worked through the prophet Elisha and can work through us, too. *Imagine that!*

WORSHIP | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6085sLXCMs>

• Let's gather around and worship our Lord together!

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Find The Difference

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need the [printable](#) either projected on a screen or printed out for kids. Kids will work individually or in pairs to determine the differences between the two images.
 - **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** If possible, use technology to make it more interesting for the kids. Pull up the printable as an image on a tablet or two, depending how many kids you have. Have a drawing feature available to use on the image so kids can circle the differences on the screen.
- **Can you tell the difference between something original and something copied?** Let's look at the painting "The Bedroom" by the famous artist Vincent Van Gogh.
- You did a great job figuring out the differences between a copy and the original. Speaking of original, no one is more original than God. There's nothing fake, copied, or pretend that can even come close to how awesome God is.
- Today, we're going to see proof of that as we hear a story about how God did something amazing for a couple who made a special place for the prophet Elisha in their home. I wonder if that room looked like Van Gogh's painting.

QUESTION | What is something you think is impossible?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to share their answers freely. Choose a few responses and discuss why that thing is or isn't impossible.*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Preteens might feel rising levels of anxiety and pressure as they prepare for middle school. You may notice they often come to church without sufficient rest the night before, and some might even bring their homework with them. It may seem like an impossible time to do everything they want to do. Remember to be empathetic toward their tiredness. You may even want to begin your time with them by giving them space to air out their woes from the past week!*
- **What are some things you think are impossible?**
- Throughout history, lots of stuff that seemed impossible turned out to be possible! Like flying in airplanes, talking on phones, and using cars and electricity.
- It makes you wonder if "impossible" is just a word we make up. Well, some things are still impossible, but in today's Bible story, we'll find out that the same rules don't apply to God.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 2:10a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!*
- "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."

VIDEO | *Imagine That!*, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

SCRIPTURE | 2 Kings 4:8–37 (Elisha And The Shunammite's Son)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up your space like an art class. Set up a canvas, poster paper, or dry-erase board on an easel, along with paint brushes, paint palettes, and markers. If you can, draw elements of the story as you tell it—even simple stick figures are great.*
- Hello, artists! Welcome back to the *Imagine That!* studio. We're going to create artwork inspired by Scripture.
- In today's Bible story, Elisha went to a place called Shunem, where the people were called Shunammites.
- **Let's see what happens there by reading 2 Kings 4:8–10.**
 - The Shunammite lady and her husband set up a special room for Elisha to stay in whenever he visited their town.
 - **What are some of the cozy things that the Shunammite woman might have put in Elisha's room?** We know there was a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. *Draw these items.*
 - **What else do you think might have been there?**
 - The couple did something really nice. Even though Elisha didn't have a lot, he wanted to do something in return because they were so kind to him.
- **Let's find out what he was thinking in 2 Kings 4:11–14.**
 - Picture this: Elisha is taking a break on his bed. *Draw Elisha on a bed.* And guess what? His good friend Gehazi is right there, sitting on a chair. *Draw Gehazi on a chair.*
 - They're talking about how they can help the Shunammite woman. Even though she didn't ask for anything, Gehazi suggests that maybe she'd like a child.
- **Then what did Elisha do? Let's find out in 2 Kings 4:15–17.**

- The woman asked Elisha not to get her hopes up—she wanted a child for so long. But Elisha knew that God could do what humans cannot do. He told her that she would have a baby in a year.
- And guess what? Against all odds, she did. *Draw the woman with a baby.*
- **But the story takes a turn in 2 Kings 4:18–28.**
 - Paint these scenes in your mind: A boy running to his dad, feeling really hurt. The boy sadly passed away while resting on his mom's lap. The mom gently placed the boy on the bed where Elisha would sleep at their house. The mom quickly rode a donkey to seek help from Elisha.
 - **Why do you think the woman went straight to Elisha?**
 - Elisha was really sad to hear that the Shunammite woman had lost her son. The child was a blessing that the woman couldn't have even imagined, and now, he had been taken from her. There was nothing anyone could do about it ... or was there?
- **Let's see what Elisha does in 2 Kings 4:29–37.**
 - Elisha helped the boy by doing something like CPR, but what really brought him back to life was when Elisha prayed to God. God listened to the prayer and made the boy alive again. The boy sneezed seven times and then opened his eyes. That's how they knew he was truly back!
 - I love when a story has a happy ending, don't you? Picture the Shunammite woman and her husband smiling with the boy between them.
 - *Draw three figures with smiley faces.* A beautiful picture, isn't it?
- At the start of the story, the Shunammite woman faced a really tough situation. She thought it was impossible for her to have a child. But guess what? One miracle happened, and she had a baby. Then, another impossible thing happened. When her son died, a second miracle happened. He came back to life.
- Sometimes, things that seem impossible at first might be miracles from God waiting to happen. So, don't lose hope if something seems really hard—a miracle might be just around the corner. *Imagine that!*

OBJECT LESSON | Paintbrush Talk

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this object lesson, every kid will need paintbrushes. Otherwise, you can hold one paintbrush up for all to see.*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Give preteens the opportunity to actually try painting with a single, continuous stroke. Ask volunteers to come up to the front and either paint something you tell them to paint (like an animal) or choose something they'd like to paint.*
- **A masterpiece isn't made with just one stroke of the paintbrush. Why do you think that is?**
- Every work of art is made of many brush strokes and mixed paint of different colors. The picture comes to life as the artist adds every stroke. Imagine trying to paint something with just one continuous brush stroke. It'd be impossible. At some point, the brush would run out of paint, and you'd have to lift it off the paper or canvas to get more.
- In our Bible story, imagine if the Shunammite woman and Elisha had given up when the boy Elisha promised her passed away. It could have been easy for them to quit when the boy didn't wake up, even after Elisha tried using his staff. Nobody would have blamed them for giving up—this was impossible.
- But at the moment they were ready to lift their paintbrush, they handed it to God, who creatively allowed some impossible things to happen.
- Sometimes, life can get tricky with stuff happening all over that seems out of control. But guess what? We have a super awesome God who can do anything. When things seem impossible, we can pray to God and wait for God to answer. **God can do impossible things.**

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - What did the Shunammite woman and her husband do for Elisha? *They prepared a room for him to stay in whenever he was in town.*
 - How did she respond when Elisha told her she would become a mother? Why do you think she responded in this way? *She said, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant." She might have been afraid to hope for something and be disappointed about it later if it did not happen.*
 - What was the Shunammite woman's first response when she learned that her son had died? What does this say about her faith? *She turned to Elisha. She did not know what to expect, but she knew that God could do something impossible through Elisha.*
 - Read Colossians 1:13–14. What is the impossible thing that God makes possible in this Scripture? *God "rescued us from the dominion of darkness" and forgave our sins.*
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - Why is it easy to give up on things that seem impossible?
 - Can you think of a time when something felt impossible at first but then became possible?
 - What are some impossible things that you can pray for this week?

SCRIPTURE | Colossians 1:3–14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite the kids to close their eyes and listen as you read the Scripture passage. Stop after each verse or couple of verses and ask kids to call out some words that stand out to them.*
- **What words or images stand out to you in these verses?**
- When I read these words, I think of a beautiful tree with lots of different fruit. Each fruit represents something good that we could do, like helping a friend, sharing with someone in need, listening when someone is sad or upset, doing what our parents ask, and telling a friend how much Jesus loves us.
- I also imagine a cheering stadium celebrating the mighty victories of Jesus! How Jesus beat death—what could be more impossible than that? He rescued us from the power of sin, the things that harm our relationship with God. Because of Jesus, we live in a "kingdom of light" rather than a "dominion of darkness."
- Thanks to Jesus, we can talk to God anytime we want to, just like the writer of this passage always prayed for others. So, whenever something that seems impossible comes along, we can remember to pray instead of getting discouraged. Because **God can do impossible things**.

PRAYER

- God, you are bigger, stronger, and more creative than we can even imagine. Forgive us for the times we haven't prayed because we didn't trust that you can make impossible things possible. Thank you for being a God who can do impossible things. Amen.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Processing Through Process Art

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a [rolling cart](#) or box of art supplies from Week One. Invite kids to reflect as they explore process art. This approach to art is all about freedom and independence, giving kids the space to unleash their creativity without the need for samples or strict guidelines. Allow kids to be as creative as they'd like to be!*
- Process art is such a fun way to do art. Instead of focusing on making something perfect, process art is all about having fun during the creative journey. The main idea is to experiment and find cool ways to use different art materials.
- Use the materials around you to make something that reminds you of today's Big Idea: **God can do impossible things**. Later on, you can share a bit about what you made if you want.

RESPONSE | Pray For Impossible Things

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids share in pairs or groups of three. Afterward, volunteers can share their responses with the large group. After each response, say a quick, one-sentence prayer.
- The Shunammite woman was really kind to Elisha by opening the doors to her home to him. That opened the doors for impossible blessings from God, like having a son when she thought it wasn't possible and even bringing him back to life when he died. She had asked Elisha not to get her hopes up, but Elisha was sure that God could do anything.
- Sometimes, we hesitate to ask God for impossible things because we don't want to get our hopes up. But it's not up to us to decide what God can or can't do. Nothing is impossible for God.
- But while we can trust God to do the impossible, we can leave it to God to decide whether these impossible things will happen. We can only pray and ask God about it, then leave the results to God.
 - **Is there something in the world that feels impossible that you want to talk to God about?**
 - **What about in your own life?**
- Let's not stop praying to God about all things. **God can do impossible things.**

ACTIVITY | Paintbrush Staff

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need [paintbrushes](#) for each kid, along with washi tape, stickers, pipe cleaners, and optional air-dry clay for them to decorate the brush handle. See some worked examples [here](#).
- Imagine that this paintbrush is the staff Elisha used to try to bring the Shunammite woman's son back to life. The staff didn't do anything, but when Elisha prayed to God, the boy came back to life!
- Now, decorate this brush in whatever way you'd like to help remember that we can hand over our brush—or staff—to God in any situation, but especially in the ones that seem out of our control. **God can do impossible things.**

ACTIVITY | Impossible Collage

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need kid-friendly magazines, catalogs, or printouts of images from the web, safety scissors, glue, and individual sheets of paper or one large sheet for groups. Have kids cut out images of things that remind them of things that feel impossible to them, like making new friends, skydiving, embarrassing haircuts, and facing scary animals. Then, they glue on as many images as they'd like on their own paper or on a large sheet as a group to make a collage.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Create a [digital collage](#) as a group or individually. Once the empty collage is opened, instruct preteens to search for images based upon things they feel are impossible to deal with. Give them the ideas of bullies, achieving a certain look or style, and stage fright to get them started. Have kids fill their collage with the most impossible things they can imagine.
 - **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Some kids with disabilities may not have the language to describe what they are feeling. Understand that sometimes the behaviors you see might not be the emotion they are experiencing. Reflect back the behavior you observe ("I hear that you are frustrated") and allow them to correct you if that's not what's happening.
- **What kinds of feelings did you experience as you cut out and pasted your impossible images?**
- Sometimes, when we face really tough challenges, we may feel like there's no hope. Imagine feeling like the Shunammite woman did when she saw her son in a bad situation.
- But when Elisha heard about the woman's son, he didn't lose hope. Elisha believed that God had something else in mind.
- We often accept things as impossible before even imagining what God might have in mind for that situation. It can be something seemingly small, like gum on the shoe, or something much bigger and harder to deal like conflict at home. No matter the size of the problem, nothing is impossible for God!
- We might not be able to do much in certain situations, but that's when we can turn to God. **God can do impossible things.**