



Week Three: All Things Are Possible – Study Guide

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Sometimes it's much easier to believe what our peers say than what God says. God often calls for us to do things that are impossible without Him. If we don't have faith that He can do through us what He has called us to do, we can easily tap out and miss out on something great.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Have you ever sensed God calling you to do something that seemed impossible, or at least ridiculous? What was it? How did you respond?

Into the Bible

- 2) We pick up with Mary's reaction to the announcement of her virgin conception of Jesus. Read **Luke 1:34-38** to see how she reacted. Generally describe her reaction. How would you have reacted to that kind of news?

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- 3) Soon after the announcement, Mary went to visit Elizabeth. Luke never actually shows Mary telling Elizabeth anything, but she seemed to know what had happened. Read **Luke 1:39-45** to see her reaction. How does Elizabeth's understanding confirm the miraculous work God was doing? What does this teach us about being excited for what God is doing in other people's lives?

- 4) Sharing her news with Elizabeth stirred some excitement in Mary. In **Luke 1:46-56** she broke out in a spontaneous song, now called the *Magnificat*. What kinds of things does she say about God in this song?

How Does This Apply?

- 5) Jesus' conception was a miracle in Mary's life, but it was also a difficult responsibility that she was faithful to. Do you have any miracles in your life that are now a responsibility? What is it? How do you believe you're called to be faithful to it?

- 6) Jesus' birth changed Mary's life, in more ways than we may imagine. She actually raised God, who became a man, and died to save her from her sins. He came to do the same thing for you. Has He changed your life? How?

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Prayer Focus

- Pray for Christmas at The Cove and the opportunity we have to share the love of Jesus with local families and others around the world as we give locally, globally and eternally together.

Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) We live in an increasingly naturalistic culture that wants to explain away miracles. Anything without a logical explanation is viewed as something that needs to be tossed out. This is especially true for a miracle attributed to God's intervention. One of the greatest examples is Jesus' virgin birth. Many people have sought to disprove it. Why would disproving the virgin birth be a big deal for someone who doesn't want to believe it? Was it really necessary for Jesus to be born of a virgin? Why?

For some reasons, and great insights into Jesus' virgin birth, check out this article from theresurgence.com: <http://tiny.cc/virginbirth>