



Why Impossibilities?

WEEK 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series entitled, *Conquer Impossibilities*, we will answer the question: why does God allow us to face impossibilities?

DISCUSSION

What is God developing inside of us when we experience challenges? How is He using the impossible situations that we all face to build, grow, and strengthen us? When we encounter impossibilities and respond correctly—there are some powerful things God does in and through our lives. Understanding the purpose in the pain makes all the difference.

John 11:1-6: *Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.*

In this short passage of Scripture, there's a divine invitation from the Lord to experience three things in every impossible situation:

1. Proximity

John 11:3: *Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."* God never promised life would be easy, but He did promise He would always be with us. Proximity means *nearness*. He'll be near and close when we cry out to Him. We can't control how or when challenges and impossibilities come, but we can choose our response. Every impossible situation, every challenge, is a divine invitation to draw nearer to Jesus and to invite Him to draw nearer to us. God doesn't cause challenges, but He can, with our cooperation, use them for our good, and His glory. We sometimes tend to cry out to God for help and miracles but are so focused on the problems that we aren't focused on the Healer. Impossibilities are invitations to greater intimacy, closer friendship, and greater proximity.

- Why do you think it can be difficult to keep our focus on God instead of the problems we encounter?
- How have you experienced God's nearness in an impossible situation?

2. Purpose

John 11:4: *When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."* Jesus is saying, "There's a purpose to your pain." To glorify God is to have an accurate perspective of His greatness and to help others' see Him for who He really is. To glorify is to have an accurate and elevated view of God and His greatness, dignity, and power.

- Share a time when God turned around your situation for your good and His glory.

3. Perspective

John 11:5-6: *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.* God's delays aren't God's denials. Ask God for fresh perspective—especially in the pain. When we don't see our prayers being answered, particularly in our preferred timing, it can be painful and confusing. While we may even question God's love for us, we must realize God isn't distant and uninterested. He is working to reveal Himself through every impossible situation in a personal and profound way!

- What impossible situation are you facing now?
- How can we gain a new perspective when we experience impossible situations?

LIFE CHALLENGE

Ask God to bring to mind a friend or family member you can pray with. Pray together this week, and ask God to give you both His proximity, purpose, and perspective in the impossible situations you may be facing.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER