

The page is decorated with several sprigs of holly leaves and red berries. Some are dark green with black outlines, while others are light green with grey outlines. They are scattered around the central text area, which is a light green rectangle with a dark blue border.

"For nothing is impossible with God," the angel Gabriel told Mary when foretelling the birth of Jesus.

Perhaps like Jesus' mother-to-be, you have asked the Lord, "How will this be?" about something you thought impossible. As human beings, we like answers and explanations and reason. We tend to be a little uncomfortable when we don't quite understand how God is going to accomplish his purposes in our lives.

Can your heart trust today the words of the angel that "nothing is impossible with God"?

As you prepare for Christmas this year, think about something you know the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do or to say, and be encouraged as you remember that you go in strength that is God's strength—the kind that sees no obstacles—only possibilities!

God bless you as you celebrate His birth!

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tips for youth workers

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SEE POSSIBILITIES, NOT OBSTACLES!

All ready for Christmas? Depending on your temperament, you may react well to this question, or you may want to bury your head in the tinsel! Here's an idea—try to imagine the very first Christmas, or nine months prior to be exact. Mary is told she will bear a child whose name will be Jesus Christ, and it seems impossible to her. Yet Gabriel reassures Mary that nothing is impossible with God! You may be facing this season or the thought of the new year with some “impossibles” in your life. Won't you trust God that he wants to help turn those things into “possibles”? Included below are some ideas to help you in case you've given yourself a challenge for the new year in spiritual growth. Remember, “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.” (see 1 Thessalonians 5:23-25)

“IMPOSSIBLE” CHALLENGE #1: READ THROUGH THE BIBLE! Why not take on the challenge to read through the whole Bible? Here are some tools that may help you.

www.navpress.com/Magazines/DiscipleshipJournal/BibleReadingPlans/

Several styles of annual Bible reading plans are offered as .pdf downloads.

The One Year Chronological Bible (NIV), Tyndale House Publishers, 1995, ISBN: 084235090X.

www.oneyearbibleblog.com/2004/09/index.html. This site has a link to a each day's Bible reading, and offers helpful commentary and pictures to complete your experience.

Inspired by the Bible Experience: The Complete Bible on Audio CD, Zondervan, ISBN-10: 0310926300.

Today's New International Version read by professional actors, this is a great way to listen to God's Word everyday.

www.bibleonradio.com—listen to the New Living Translation of the Bible daily, narrated by Tom Dooley either online, or download to an mp3 player.

“IMPOSSIBLE” CHALLENGE #2: DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOUR STUDENTS!

Choose Your Top 3: 500 Dynamic Discussion Starters to Get Your Teenagers Talking, Brian Schulenburg, Zondervan, 2006, ISBN: 0310267463 ~ This book has 500 discussion starter questions, ranging from very general (What are your top 3 pizza toppings?) to the more personal (What are your top 3 names for God?). Use them anywhere and anytime, and discover how much you can learn about your teens by asking their “top 3”.

Introduction by Handshake. Try this activity anytime of year to get to know your students a little better. Have them write a list of 25 words that describes them and things they like. Then have them trace around both their hands with a dark marker, and then tape a second sheet of paper on top of the first and write the words on their list around the outline of their hands. Have them put their first name on one hand and their last name on the other hand. You can then put these “handy” reminders of your kids self-descriptions displayed for everyone to read and/or then put into a binder to keep. (*idea from:*

www.education-world.com in “Icebreakers 2000”)