



Welcome

SERIES: KICK YOUR “BUTS”

Message: *But It's Not Possible*

Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: God of the Impossible, we come before you today with a heart seeking faith for the seemingly impossible. Your Word declares that with You, all things are possible, and we choose to stand on that truth. Enable us to silence the doubts and fears that whisper limitations, and instead, fix our eyes on your boundless power. Strengthen our belief, Lord, so we may see your miracles unfold in situations that appear hopeless. We trust in your divine ability to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

ICEBREAKER: What's your favorite thing about the place you live?

INTRODUCTION: All things are possible if you have faith. Faith is paramount. It's the foundation for our relationship with God, enabling us to trust God even when circumstances are uncertain. Faith provides hope and resilience, allowing us to persevere through adversity. Faith is a powerful motivator, inspiring action and commitment towards goals and the future. Faith reminds us of what is possible, even when it seems impossible. We must have faith.

BIBLE STUDY: Read St. Matthew 17:19-21 (NIV): ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” ²⁰ He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message? What points did you find most insightful?
2. Matthew 17:19-20 speaks about the disciples' inability to cast out a demon and Jesus's response about faith as small as a mustard seed. Considering the historical and ongoing challenges faced by the African American community (e.g., systemic injustice, economic disparities, health inequities), in what ways might a lack of “faith” (or perhaps, a lack of collective empowerment and belief in our own agency) hinder progress, and how can we cultivate the kind of faith Jesus describes to overcome these seemingly insurmountable obstacles?
3. For African Americans, prayer and spiritual practices have long been cornerstones of resilience and resistance. How can prayer and fasting, in both individual and communal forms, be strategically employed today, not just for personal spiritual growth, but also as a powerful tool for social and communal liberation from persistent oppressive forces?

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4. The disciples asked Jesus, “Why could we not cast it out?” This question reflects a moment of self-reflection and perhaps frustration with their perceived limitations. In what areas of life, individually or collectively, do we experience a similar sense of “why can't we overcome this?” (e.g., within families, churches, or broader society). What self-imposed or external barriers might contribute to these feelings, and how can the principles of Matthew 17 encourage a shift in perspective and action?
5. Jesus emphasizes that with faith, “nothing will be impossible for you.” Historically, African Americans have achieved extraordinary feats against immense odds (e.g., the Civil Rights Movement, advancements in arts and sciences). Reflecting on this verse, how can the community harness its collective faith, spiritual heritage, and unique cultural strengths to envision and pursue “impossible” goals today, particularly those that address intergenerational trauma, build wealth, and ensure equitable futures?

CHALLENGE: Identify one area where you’d like God to increase your faith and help you see what’s possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: lisa.johnson@myspbc.org.
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.*



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The lesson was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)