

DREAM BIG!

God can do anything, you know - far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

*Glory to God in the church!
Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!
Glory down all the generations!
Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!
- Ephesians 3:20-21 The Message (MSG) -*

Introduction

It is impossible to dream bigger than God's ability! God is not confined by space or time, resources or power, wisdom or knowledge! In fact, God can do more than we can even dream!

Nehemiah provides a great example of someone in the Bible who had big dreams. Nehemiah received discouraging news from home. The holy city of Jerusalem was in ruins, and the city walls were completely destroyed. Nehemiah dreamed about rebuilding the walls and ultimately the whole city. Nehemiah prayed and asked God to intervene so that King Artaxerxes would show him favor and allow him to return home and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

God answered Nehemiah's prayer and did more than he asked. King Artaxerxes not only gave him permission to return home but also gave Nehemiah a letter for safe passage and supplies for rebuilding the walls! God can do more than we can ever dream!

It is impossible to dream too big when it comes to God's ability to meet our needs! God loves us and will provide for what we need. In 2 Kings 4:17, the Bible tells of a widow who cries out to the prophet Elisha because she was in great debt and the creditor was coming to take her two young boys away to sell them as slaves. After discovering the widow had a small jar of oil in her home, Elisha instructed her to borrow as many containers from her neighbor. Elisha also said, "Don't just ask for a few..." (2 Kings 4:3). Elisha knew the Lord would greatly provide for the widow.

The widow did as Elisha instructed her, she collected as many containers as her neighbors would lend her. She closed the doors of her home, and the widow began to fill all the containers with the oil from the small jar until none was left (2 Kings 4:6). When the widow sold the oil, she had enough money to pay her debt and more! There was money left for her and her sons to live on. (2 Kings 4:7).

dream
BIG
pray like a child

SERMON OUTLINE



It is impossible to dream too big when it comes to God's power! God's power is immeasurable, and it is at work within us, God's children. As a young boy, David is sent to visit his older brothers who are serving in Saul's army (1 Samuel 17). The story of David's victory over Goliath is familiar to most. While David is visiting his brothers, he hears Goliath's challenge and volunteers to fight the giant.

David is willing to fight Goliath because he is convinced of the power of God to deliver him. David says in 1 Samuel 17:36-37 (NIV), "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." That day God delivered David and the Israelite Army from the hands of Goliath and the Philistines!

It is impossible to dream too big when it comes to giving God all the praise and glory for what he will do! When God's power is at work in us, He is given all the glory and praise for what He can and will do. The story of Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6) is another familiar account of God's provision and protection for his children. When Daniel refused to worship King Darius, the king had no choice but to punish Daniel by having him thrown into a den of lions to be eaten alive! Daniel remained faithful to God even in the face of the lions, and God protected Daniel. The next morning King Darius found Daniel alive and had him lifted out of the lion's den.

Daniel's faithfulness brought glory to God! Not only in Daniel's life, but throughout the Kingdom and throughout all generations. King Darius issued a decree praising and honoring God.

Daniel 17:26-27 (NIV)

²⁶I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

*"For he is the living God
and he endures forever;*

*his kingdom will not be destroyed,
his dominion will never end.*

*²⁷He rescues, and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.*

*He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions."*

Conclusion

It is time to dream big for our children! It is time to believe that God has something greater in store for them than just their present struggles and challenges. As great as their struggles and challenges may be, God is greater! There is nothing too big for God to accomplish for our children!

Let us pray big prayers for them. Let us dream bigger than we ever have for them. Let us have the faith Nehemiah had to believe God can do great things. Let us pray like our children would pray, full of faith in God who they believe can do more than we could ever imagine!

RESPONSE: CORPS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Supplies: Pens, Markers, printed picture of the praying child silhouette or if unable to print the image, draw the image on a larger piece of paper.

After the message, an invitation could be given to the Corps family to respond. Place the large praying child image on a wall in the Chapel and invite the Corps family to come as prayer music is being played to write on the image their prayer for the children in their Corps. Are there situations that seem impossible? What is the prayer that God is placing on your heart for the Corps children?

After people respond and write their prayers on the poster, gather together and pray corporately for these requests.

Keep the image posted in the chapel for a couple of weeks and remind the Corps Family to keep praying and trusting for the impossible -- Dream & Pray Big!

