

The following will help you plan your Sunday Worship meeting. These are suggested meeting elements and in addition to these elements, Corps could include their regular announcements, tithes and offerings, and other cultural elements specific to their context.

Call To Worship - God Can Do Anything!

Introduction to Theme: *Dream Big - Pray Like A Child*

Ephesians 3:20-21 The Message (MSG)
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!

Opening Song

Children's Story

Band Selection

Monologue/Dramatic Presentation - "Teach Me - A Child's Prayer"

Songster Selection

Bible Message

Response: Corps Prayer Activity

Closing Song

Video Benediction by General Brian Peddle

DREAM BIG!

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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).



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 through 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)

²⁶"I 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.

²⁷ He 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!





GOD CAN DO ANYTHING:

An Ephesians 3:20-21 Call to Worship

From a teaching by Dave Cadieux

(This can be done memorized or reader's theater style. It would be ideal for a mixed cast of young people and adults.)

YP#1: God can do anything, you know

Adult#1: C.H. Spurgeon said: "Power is the special and distinctive prerogative of God, and God alone."

YP#1: far more than you could ever imagine,

YP#2: or guess,

YP#3: or request in your wildest dreams!

YP#1: He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us,

Adult#2: Spurgeon continued "If he (God) delegates a portion of it (his power) to his creatures, yet it still is his power. ...

YP#2: his Spirit

YP#3: the Holy Spirit of God,

YP#1: that power that works within us

Adult#1: deeply

Adult#2: endows us with:

Adult#1: the authority and knowledge to: rightly handle the Word of God,

Adult#2: distinguish right from wrong, light from darkness,

Adult#1: exhort or correct our brother,

YP#1: and gently

YP#2: to love God,

YP#3: love our neighbor,

YP#2: walk in the Spirit, and

YP#1: put aside the deeds of the sin nature.

Adult#1: That is the power at work within us.

Adult#1: Glory to God in the church!

Both Adults: AMEN! *

Adult#2: Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Both Adults: AMEN! *

All YP: Glory down all the generations!

All: AMEN! *

Adult#1: Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!"

(Leading the congregation)

Adult#1: And all God's people said... Amen! *

* The congregation can be encouraged to join in gradually so that all are in unison by the final line.



TEACH ME - A Child's Prayer

A monologue based on Ephesians 3:20-21 (MSG) Written by Chris Stoker

A child kneels to pray. The prayer begins slowly, tentatively, softly. As the child prays, it becomes more active and conversational. A passion builds out of sincerity and desperation.

Dear God,

You are the Father of everything.

You love me... all of us.

Your Son lives in me... in all of us.

You help us stand. You help us stand up, stand strong.

You help us reach. You reach out to me and help me to reach out to others.

You're bigger than everything. I can't ever find the end of you, or your love.

You can do anything.

Teach me to love bigger, to love like you love.

God, teach me to pray bigger, too. Teach me to talk with you and to be with you. I want to know you, I want others to know you. I want us to talk to you and to hear when you talk to us.

Help us listen to you and to each other.

Teach me to dream bigger. Teach me to dream your dreams. Can I see how you see? Show me how to see me the way that you see me. Show me how to see others the ways that you see them. I want to dream about the world that turns to you and finds you. Teach me to dream bigger.

And I want to live bigger. I want to be full of you. I want your Spirit to move deeply in my life and in my being. I want my life to be full of your life. Please. Help me to move like you move.

Teach me, God. Teach me to live, to dream, to pray and to love like you do.

Because you are the Father of everything and I am your child. Because you love me and you ask me to love others. Because your Son lives in me... and I want to live in Him.

So teach me, Lord. Please teach me.

Amen.



Supplies: Cardboard Box

See this box. It's just a regular cardboard box. What would you use this box for? (Ask the children to respond)

Those are great things you can do with a box!

So with this box I might store all sorts of things in it. Boxes are helpful when you move to a new place, and have a lot of things to pack. Boxes are mainly for storing things. You might put your toys in one box, and your books in another. Boxes are great for organization too, but you have to make sure they're the right size. I mean you couldn't put a broom in a box like this size.

Sometimes we try to do that with God - put Him in a box. But God is huge! He's bigger than the earth, the sun, and the universe. He created all of those! Our minds can't even understand how God does what He does. He's all powerful. He's everywhere at once. But sometimes we try and put Him in a box. What I mean by that is a lot of times we think God can't do something. For instance, have you ever prayed for a friend to know Jesus? Maybe a family member? Have you ever prayed for the salvation of your whole country? If you don't believe God can save your friend, you're putting God in a box. Don't forget, He's the one that created the world.

God has no limits. There is nothing that He can't do! You can trust Him with anything! If you have something big on your heart that God has asked you to pray for, don't put it aside or think it's impossible. Just pray. You'll be amazed at what God can do. 1st Corinthians 2:9 says, "however as it is written: no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." Don't put God in a box. Pray as big as you can so you and your faith can grow. And watch God do the impossible!

We're going to pray. Please close your eyes and as we quietly sit here, ask God for what you should pray for. Listen for God to tell you the impossible thing He wants you to pray for. And pray for it!

Close in prayer with the children.



MUSIC RESOURCES



Advanced Band Selection:

American Band Journal #222 "Island Dreams" by Martyn S. Thomas Triumph Series 831 (2) Cornet Solo - "Prayer of Childhood" by Leslie Condon

Youth Band Selection

Hollie Ruthberg Sunday School Choruses #33 "We Are Marching" First Things First # 9 "My God is So Big" by Nicholas Samuel First Things First #15 "Walk With the Lord" by Dean Jones

Senior Songster Selection

Musical Salvationist July 1981 "God Can Do the Impossible" by Howard Davies "Somebody Prayed for Me" (STTL - Mixed Voices - Volume 10, Num. 1, #6 - 2003)

Youth Chorus/Singing Company Selection

Children's Praise Volume 4 "You Won't Believe What God Can Do" by Douglas Court Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Volume 13 "God Can Do....!" by Dean Jones

Congregational Song Suggestions

Old Song Book#/Old Tune Book

Children, Sing For Gladness - 835/211

He Is Able

Greater Things - 769/237
I'm Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus - 727/342 or 343

New Song Book #/New Song Book

Children, Sing for Gladness - 916/193
He Is Able - 836/648
Greater Things - 525/743
I'm Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus - 494/297 or 298