**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Please Hurry!**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Mark 5:21–24](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk5.21-24), [35–43](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk5.35-43).

**Consider**

A religious leader named Jairus had a daughter who was very sick. He pleaded with Jesus to heal his daughter, but it was too late. Or was it? Like Jairus, we may think that Jesus is late answering our prayer. But we’re challenged to continue to believe, to really trust Jesus, even though what we’re facing seems impossible.

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| **QUESTION**How can knowing what happens at the end of the story encourage you to not give up on Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**As a follower of Jesus, what does it look like to keep trusting Jesus even when things are a mess? |

**Reflect**

We read how the daughter was raised to life by Jesus. He never gave up on her. The crowd who was mourning her death had already given up. Jesus sent them away. When faced with tough situations, it’s important to have friends we can rely on to stick with us, even when everyone else has given up.

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| **QUESTION**Would you say you are more like the crowd or the three disciples who followed Jesus into the room to pray for the girl? |

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| **QUESTION**What needs to happen in your life to develop more trust in Jesus? |

**Activate**

Write the word *TRUST* in a journal or on a piece of paper. For each letter, write a word or phrase that can serve as a reminder of how to grow in your trust of Jesus. For example, for the letter U, you may write *understand*. That could remind you to understand that Jesus can be trusted.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for being there for me. Help me to truly believe in You as my Source of life. Help me to trust You and to grow in this trust. I also ask that I would be someone others can trust to stand with them when they are facing a difficult time. Amen.

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**Day 2: Never Abandoned**

**Engage**

Read [Psalm 9:7–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps9.7-14).

**Consider**

The writer of [Psalm 9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps9), David, faced many tough moments in life. One of the hardest was when he was chased by King Saul and an army who were trying to kill him. Through it all, he learned to trust God with his life and his future. As a result of his trials, he wrote many of the psalms in the Bible. Here we find a psalm of David to remember how God had rescued him from trouble. By remembering and writing this down, it served as a reminder that God would do the same in the days ahead.

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| **QUESTION**How does David describe God in this passage? |

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| **QUESTION**Which verse means the most to you? Why? |

**Reflect**

Sometimes the best thing we can do when faced with a trial is to meditate on God’s Word. It’s easy to find ourself thinking over and over about the bad thing that happened. It can be depressing and really upset us. What would happen if instead we repeatedly thought about verses in the Bible? What if we spent time remembering God and what He does for us by thinking and praying the words from the Bible? In other words, really think about what you read in the Bible, and then think about it some more. Then pray the very words you just read and meditated on. Replace the negative thoughts with positive prayer.

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| **QUESTION**What negative thoughts do you find yourself thinking again and again? |

**Activate**

Are you facing something impossible or having negative thoughts you need to let go of? Take time to read these verses over and over again. Take time to pause in places to think about what you just read. And then pray the words you just read.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for being a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Thank You that You do not abandon me as I search for You. Help me to think differently. I want to remember what You can do when I face tough times. Help me to keep a strong faith. Amen.

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**Day 3: Sing It Out!**

**Engage**

Read [Psalm 40:1–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps40.1-5).

**Consider**

The psalms in the Bible were often songs or poems that were sung. Recalling the words may be easier if they are sung rather than just memorizing them. Remember, people back then didn’t have paper and pen to write down things like we do today. Many times, they simply had to remember what God did. Some did so by turning the idea into a song. Perhaps you have written a song or poem when you were feeling down or needing a reminder that things could get better. If so, this is just what some writers of psalms may have felt. You’re in good company.

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| **QUESTION**How would you put verse [5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps40.5) in your own words? |

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| **QUESTION**What is the result of waiting on the Lord for help? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it means to wait on the Lord? |

**Reflect**

Keeping strong faith in God when things are not going well can be a challenge. Singing psalms could be one way of helping someone get through. The more a psalm is sung, the more it can be remembered and believed. This was a way to be encouraged. There are times when we need to encourage ourself, too. Constantly be reminded that God is with us and, as verse [5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps40.5) says, has performed many wonders for us.

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| **QUESTION**Do you tend to turn toward God in tough times or run from Him? Why? |

**Activate**

You may not be a songwriter, but perhaps you have a favorite worship song that really encourages you. Consider playing it each morning this week as you get ready for your day. Start your day off by hearing and singing along with songs that can strengthen your faith to stay strong.

**Pray**

Dear God, like the writer of [Psalm 40](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps40), I could never list all Your wonderful deeds. Truly, You have no equal. I need You every day of my life. There are days when I feel like quitting. But I trust that I belong to You, and You are my Rock. I’m determined to have faith in You more than ever. Amen.

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**Day 4: I Can Do All Things**

**Engage**

Read [Philippians 4:4–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Php4.4-14).

**Consider**

The apostle Paul experienced all sorts of problems as a follower of Jesus. Through each one, he grew stronger and more determined to serve Jesus. His life is a model for us today. Rather than give up or question God, Paul used each situation he faced as an opportunity to excel in his faith. He wrote more books of the Bible than any other person, and within each one is evidence of his commitment to grow stronger in his character. See if you can discover a few keys to his determination to keep moving forward.

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| **QUESTION**Can you find at least seven things Paul said or did in this passage to strengthen his walk with Jesus? What are they? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it means to always be full of joy in the Lord? |

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| **QUESTION**How can you find joy in the Lord? |

**Reflect**

Finding joy when we are faced with an impossible situation can be a difficult task. It’s one thing to continue to trust Jesus with the impossible, but quite another to have joy while you’re going through it. So, Paul gave us some thoughts on this very issue. He said not to worry, but to pray. He also said to think on things that are worthy of praise. Finally, Paul revealed that he learned how to do all things through Christ. These are things we can all benefit from and put into our life to help us.

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| **QUESTION**How would you describe your walk with Jesus when faced with what seems to be an impossible situation? |

**Activate**

Write out the things that Paul said he did to help when facing difficult times. As you’re writing them out, play the worship song you played yesterday. Let today be a twofer when it comes to activating your faith in Jesus.

**Pray**

Dear God, help me find joy in all circumstances. Help me to think on things that will be helpful when I’m facing tough times. Teach me to learn to do all things through You. I want to finish strong and believe You, even for the impossible. Thank You! Amen.

**Live on Your Own**

**Day 5: Never Give Up!**

**Engage**

Read [Luke 18:1–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk18.1-8).

**Consider**

Jesus told many parables to the crowds. Parables are stories that are used to reveal a truth or make a point. Many times, Jesus told these parables to show who He was or how we should live. Rather than simply say, pray, for example, He would tell a story about someone who prayed. People love and remember a good story. This was probably one reason Jesus told so many. There are many stories in the Bible for us to read. Each gives us a clearer picture of God. In this parable, Jesus challenged hearers to never give up. Have faith, even when things seem impossible.

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| **QUESTION**What was the response to the widow continually asking for justice? |

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| **QUESTION**What is the question Jesus asked in verse [8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk18.8)? |

**Reflect**

Will Jesus find people of faith on earth when He returns? Jesus wants each of us to have faith in Him, and through this parable, He asked how many people will have bold faith. Will they have faith bold enough to continually ask, even when things look impossible? We all face impossible things, and sometimes what we ask doesn’t always get answered the way we wanted or hoped for. But trusting Jesus is just that—trusting Him. Having faith is believing to the very end and trusting Jesus with the outcome.

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| **QUESTION**Do you tend to ask God once and move on or continue to ask until you have an answer? |

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| **QUESTION**How has walking through these devotions helped you grow in your commitment to keep the faith when facing what seems impossible? |

**Activate**

The widow prayed day and night. Sometimes, we have our prayer time in the morning or night. Try to do both today. Spend time praying during the day and during the night. Believe and trust God with your prayers. Remember, He is the God of the impossible.

**Pray**

Dear God, I’m going to come to You twice today. I have learned to not give up when it comes to trusting You with the results. Thank You for showing me that I can truly trust You. I know You hear my prayers, just as this parable described with the widow. Help all believers to grow in their commitment to keep the faith and trust You with the impossible. Amen.

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