

Impossible for God?

Teacher Guide

Materials

- Impossible for God? handout (1 per student)
- Teacher Guide for your own use

Opening Thoughts

Earlier we considered this question, “Is anything impossible for God?”

- ? Do you believe that there is anything that God cannot do? *Allow answers. Many will say God can do anything.*
- ? OK. I have another question for you. Is it reasonable to use the Bible to make an argument to support the Bible? *Allow answers.*

Let’s take our questions to the ultimate authority by seeing what God’s Word has to say.

What Does the Word Say?

Read **Hebrews 6:13–14** *Assign someone to read the verses.*

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”

- ? In Hebrews 6:13–14, what does God base His oath on? *Himself. Because there is no one greater to swear by.*

Read **Hebrews 6:18** *Assign someone to read the verse.*

that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Read **Titus 1:2** *Assign someone to read the verse.*

in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

- ? What common idea do you find in Hebrews 6:18 and Titus 1:2? *It is impossible for God to lie.*

Connecting the Dots

- ? How do we know about God and His will and decrees? *Through His Word, the Bible.*
- ? If God wrote the Bible (2 Peter 1:19–21), is there any standard greater than the Bible? *No. There is no greater standard.*
- ? If God cannot lie and God wrote the Bible, what can we conclude about the contents of the Bible? *The Bible is true.*

Any time we reason, we make claims based on information that has various sources. If I asked you how you know Venus is a planet, you might say because it is called a planet in an encyclopedia. But how do you know the encyclopedia is correct? Ultimately, we must come to a final authority in determining truth. The Bible should be that standard in everyone’s life—it is the very Word of God. That is why it makes sense to use the Bible to support the Bible. We can appeal to no higher standard. Everything that the Bible declares is truth.

- ? It is often said that God can do anything, but we must be careful with that claim. What impossibility did you find in the passages we looked at? *It is impossible for God to lie.*

It is impossible for God to do anything that doesn’t line up with His character. God cannot lie because He is truth. We can trust what He has revealed to us. If He could lie, He would cease to be God. This should give us great comfort as we use the Bible to guide our lives.

That said, we must be careful with this argument: “The Bible is true because it says it is true.” If we stop there, we would be making a vicious circular argument. We need to add another component. The Bible is the Word of God because it says it is *and* it allows us to make sense of the world. No other worldview provides a consistent explanation for our world that makes sense. The Bible is true because it says it is, and any other explanation for the universe’s existence is illogical in some sense.

Impossible for God?

Opening Thoughts

- ? Is there anything that God cannot do? If so, what?

- ? Is it reasonable to use the Bible to make an argument to support the Bible? Explain.

What Does the Word Say?

Hebrews 6:13–14

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”

- ? What does God base His oath on? Why?

Hebrews 6:18

that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Titus 1:2

in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

- ? What common idea do you find in Hebrews 6:18 and Titus 1:2?

Connecting the Dots

- ? How do we know about God and His will and decrees?

- ? If God wrote the Bible (2 Peter 1:19–21), is there any standard greater than the Bible?

- ? If God cannot lie and God wrote the Bible, what can we conclude about the contents of the Bible?