

This midweek study will explore the importance of Jesus' miracles in demonstrating His glory and revealing His identity as God's Son. Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for your students.

Essential Doctrine: Miracles

A miracle is an event in which God makes an exception to the natural order of things, or supersedes natural laws, for the purpose of demonstrating His glory and/or validating His message. Miracles are recorded throughout Scripture; miraculous signs and wonders were oftentimes evident when a prophet or an apostle was speaking God's message to the people. Because we believe God to be all-powerful and personally involved in this world, we believe He can and does perform miracles.

1 Miracles are events where God suspends the natural order of things to demonstrate His glory (Jer. 32:27; Mark 6:49-50).

We are incapable of doing miracles because we are not God—we are part of the created order. God can act however He chooses and has the authority to suspend the laws of nature for His glory because God is not natural, but supernatural.

- ▶ *How did God suspend the natural order of things to demonstrate His glory in Scripture?*

Read Jeremiah 32:27.

- ▶ *What does it say about God's power that things that are impossible for us are easy for Him?*

God frequently uses the miraculous in Scripture to demonstrate His power. Not only do miracles show God's glory, but they also bring confidence to those who trust in Christ that He is the true and living God.

- ▶ *How does knowing God can suspend the natural order of things give you greater confidence in Him?*

Read Mark 6:49-50.

Jesus Himself walked on the water to encourage and confirm to His disciples that He was God and that they shouldn't be afraid.

- ▶ *Why does a miracle-working God reduce your fear in life?*
- ▶ *How do you think the disciples' mentality about Jesus changed after they witnessed Him walking on the water?*

2 Miracles were often present when a prophet or an apostle was speaking God's message (Matt. 9:5-7).

Option: Throughout the lesson, give candy to students every time they answer a question correctly. After a while, they will become more participatory, knowing a "blessing" accompanies following your lesson. When time for this point comes, explain that while giving candy isn't a miracle, it illustrates something interesting about miracles. In the same way a piece of candy invites you to participate in the lesson (knowing good things come from participation), miracles are things that God reveals to His

followers to remind them of His goodness, power, authority, and favor. They remind believers that, while they don't happen all the time, miracles are performed to give them greater faith in Christ.

Read Matthew 9:5-7.

- ▶ *How was the man in this story rewarded for His great faith?*
- ▶ *What was the overall impact that the miracle of Jesus had on those who witnessed the miracle?*

Miracles aren't magic tricks—they are specific tools God uses intentionally in the lives His followers.

- ▶ *What are some examples from Scripture where a prophet or apostle was given a miracle when speaking God's message?*

3 God is personally involved in the world and still performs miracles today (Matt. 17:20, John 14:12).

Read Matthew 17:20 and John 14:12.

Miracles are not limited to events found in Scripture, they still happen today. While the greatest miracle of all is your salvation, God still performs miracles at times and places of His choosing alone.

- ▶ *Have you thought about how God is working a miracle through you sharing the gospel with others?*

Christ promised His believers if they trusted Him that they would do even greater works. Even though that's an amazing thought, Christ has given us the power to do amazing things if we would trust Him.

- ▶ *Why would Christ say that believers "will do even greater works than these" if we loved Him?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *How has your thinking about the miraculous changed over the course of this discussion?*

Challenge students to know miracles happen when God suspends the natural order for His glory, were present when prophets spoke God's message, and that miracles still happen today.