



Small Group Discussion Questions
“Jesus, Miracle Worker”
Pastor Tyler Scott
November 2/3, 2013

Does God still do miracles? Sure seems like it.

This week we see two miracles stacked back to back in John’s gospel account: the feeding of the 5,000 (which was more likely about 15,000 people total), and Jesus walking on water.

Chances are, you can also think of a miracle in your own life, or the life of someone close to you. A body healed, a marriage saved, a crisis averted, a heart mended...and many more.

Our God is indeed a miracle worker, yet while we wait for Him to move or act or intervene or heal...will we live by fear or faith? Will we trust Him when the news is terrible, or even terminal? Time will tell. Yet if and when we have the courage to trust in Jesus, that trust will lead us to a treasure trove of peace, joy and freedom.

Warm it up

Point #1 from the sermon was simple: at some point we all need a miracle. Share a miracle story from your own life.

-or-

Share a situation in your life where you (or others close to you) are waiting, praying and hoping for a miracle.

Talk it Over

Read John 6:1-15.

1. What stands out to you about this miracle?

2. In v6, why do you think Jesus was testing Philip?

A. What is significant about the fact that Jesus “already had in mind what He was going to do”?

B. Do you think Jesus still tests us? Why? If you can think of a time/way you have been tested recently, share it...and include what you learned and how it affected your faith.

3. Can you relate to Philip’s statement in v7? How and why?

4. Jesus takes 5 barley biscuits (which was the bread of the poor), and two sardines, and feeds 15,000 people until they were absolutely full. What can we learn from this about His power? His provision?

5. Read v14, and also read Deuteronomy 18:15 and 18:18. Do you see the link?

6. Why do you suppose the people wanted to make Jesus “king by force” in v15?

A. In what ways do we still try to control God...and to make Him work for us? If you feel comfortable, share a personal example. :)

Read John 5:16-21.

1. How do the elements -- darkness, storms, rowing against the wind – relate to how our lives feel sometimes? Share about a recent (or current) storm in your life. If it's severe enough, share about the miracle you're waiting for.

2. When they saw Jesus approach, walking on water (like a ghost! J), they were "terrified." What is it about the power, and sometimes even the presence of God, that scares us?

3. Literally, Jesus says in v20, "Don't be afraid, I AM." Why do you think that is such an awesome statement? How can you relate that truth to your life?

Work it Through

1. How do you see Jesus as both "savior" and "sovereign" here in these accounts? (Someone in the group may have to define those terms. :)

2. How are living by FEAR and living by FAITH opposites?
 - A. Have you ever lived by fear (for a time, or through a situation)? Share about that...and what you learned from it.

 - B. Have you even lived by faith (for a time, or through a situation)? Share about that...and what you learned from it.

3. Where have you found it most challenging to trust in Jesus – his power, his provision, his presence, etc. – in your past?

4. Where are you currently finding it most challenging to trust in Jesus?

5. What do you think is the main reason for God doing miracles? (Our character? Our comfort? Our ease? Our eternity? Our good? His glory?)

Weekly Devotional and/or Sermon Thought

What was one daily devotional or thought/story from the sermon that helped you discover something new about Jesus or yourself, or helped you grow in your relationship with Jesus?

Pray it Through

Pray for one another. Be sure to thank God for his power, provision, and presence...and thank him for still being willing and able to do miracles?