Small Group/Sermon Notes based on "Miracles: Part 3"

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- In this series we are going to look at categories of miracles so that we understand the sorts of things that God does. Then we will believe God to intervene in our lives!
- **Part Three: Visions, Dreams, and the Still Small Voice.**
    - Who wants to hear from God? Who needs to hear from God?
        - Good news! God still speaks, but we must listen.
    - The most common way God speaks is through the Bible. Read it!!!
- Lots of dreams in the Bible are interpreted as God sending a message. New and Old Testament.
    - This happened for believers: Jacob **Genesis 28:10-15**, Joseph, Joseph, etc.
    - And apparent non-believers: Pilate's wife **Matthew 27:19**, Nebuchadnezzar, Pharaoh, etc.
- There are also open visions where people are awake and God sends them a message.
    - We talked about Saul on the road to Damascus. He was not a believer when he had that vision!
        - Ananias was a believer when God told him to help Saul.
- Should you chase after dreams and vision? Why or why not? What are the possible pitfalls?
    - How about asking God for a sign? Is that ok? What are possible pitfalls?
- The "normal" way to hear from God besides the Bible is to listen to the Still Small Voice of the Holy Spirit.
    - Some ways God speaks are obvious, like Saul's vision of Jesus.
    - Other ways are more vague and open to interpretation or misinterpretation!
    - Discuss Jesus' promise of the Spirit: **John 14:15-17, 25-26.**
        - The Holy Spirit is our guide through life. What a promise!!!
- Do you have some personal experience of being Spirit led? Would you like to share?
- I believe in the believer being Holy Spirit led. But there can be complications.
    - Sometimes we think we are being Spirit led but we simply are wrong.
    - Sometimes people pretend, even to themselves, that they are being Spirit led.
- How do we navigate this? Discuss the following helpful tips:
    - Be honest.
        - Don't use the Lord's name in vain. It is a serious thing to say you "felt led." **Deuteronomy 18:19-20.** "I felt led" is basically prophecy. "God told me" definitely is!
    - Be obedient.
        - When you ignore or refuse God your heart becomes calloused. Then you can't hear. **Matthew 13:15.**
        - I think most people are here. That's not nice. But I honestly think so.
    - Get to know your heart's voice vs the Holy Spirit's voice.
        - My wants and desires can drown out the Still Small Voice. Any stories?
            - Fasting helps with that a lot!
            - So does obedience. Then you see the results and can learn.
        - Big danger in confusing your heart's voice vs the Holy Spirit.
            - Justifing what you want by playing the God card vs experiencing divine guidance. TWO VERY DIFFERENT THINGS!!!
    - Don't make fun of people who are trying to be Spirit led.
        - That is a wrong heart.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!