Small Group/Sermon Notes based on "Miracles: Part 4"

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 Four: Dealing with the Demonic**
  - Let's not: reify a Hollywood spectacle, stoke paranoid fear mongering, or take false refuge in blind denials. Have you seen those things happen?
  - The truth is that there is a spirit world. There is good and there is evil in the spirit world.
    - Simple truth: God is good and the devil is bad. Angels are good and demons are bad.
    - Once we get to people it gets confusing because we can go either way!
- Jesus dealt with evil spiritual forces a lot.
  - This was very common in the New Testament. Not so common anymore…
  - Notice a few things from **Matthew 12:22-28:**
    - The skeptical Pharisees didn't question the presence of a demon.
    - They didn't question the fact that the demon had been driven out.
    - They did, however, question the source of Jesus' power.
      - Not every power if from God!!! **Acts 16:16-18**
  - So, one demon makes blind and mute, another gives fortune tellers power!
    - There is an interesting variety in the spiritual world! We see only a little of it. This hasn't gone away.
    - Does that make you nervous?? Let me help. JESUS WINS!! In fact, he has already won! More on that later…
- You are in a spiritual battle if you want to be or not.
  - Some think Satan doesn't mess with believers. That's a lie.
  - Satan attacked Jesus through the temptation. **(Matthew 4:1-11)**
  - Satan attacked Peter like Satan did Job. **Luke 22:31-32**
  - Paul warns the church about Satan's schemes. **2 Corinthians 2:10-11**
- The follower of Christ is not powerless in this battle!!!
  - Amazing verse: **James 4:7**
    - Two important parts: Submit to God, Resist the Devil!! Must do both!
  - When we submit to God, we join the army. That gives us transferred authority from God.
    - An example is: **Matthew 10:1. (Luke 10:17)**
    - Negative example, the Seven Sons of Sceva! **Acts 19:13-16.**
    - Truly submit to God. Many "Christians" haven't submitted to God.
      - Discuss the inverted relationship with God. (when we want God to serve us)
      - Dark hearted "Christians." **James 3:13-18**
  - Now resist the Devil! This is your job!
    - Simple place to start: "Shut up! Get out!"
    - It's not about volume. Rather, authority given by God to His followers and your faith in that authority. (Satan will try to scare you!)
    - Not just defense! The Gates of Hell will not overcome!
  - Satan is a defeated foe. The cross has defeated him. Has that sunk in for you?
    - His future is destruction…and so for all who choose to follow him.
  - Your future is not destruction. The cross has not defeated you, but given you the victory!
    - Choose to follow (submit to) Jesus into resurrection and everlasting life!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!