

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on “Miracles: Part 5”

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 Five: Physical Healing**
- Probably some of the most famous miracles of Jesus were physical healing. This was a major part of Jesus’ ministry.
- Interesting note: Blurry lines in the Scriptures between healing, deliverance, and forgiveness...perhaps other things as well.
 - To be whole we need to be whole. One area of brokenness affects others too.
- Let’s look at and discuss the following Scriptures that involve physical healing:
 - **Matthew 4:23-24**, Jesus healed as a regular part of his ministry.
 - **Matthew 9:35**, just making that point again!!
 - **Matthew 15:30-31**, still making the point!!
 - There are many more examples, but you get the picture!
 - The Apostles and Peter are used in this way too, **Acts 5:12-16**.
 - The promise is given to us too, **James 5:14-16**.
- How about some testimonies!!
 - Do you have any personal testimonies of healing for yourself or others?
- Discuss the following tough questions/topics. Because this all sounds great, but we’ve seen disappointments too. How have you handled prayer disappointments in the past?
 - We might assume the “testimony” reality. It isn’t usually that simple.
 - Trees walking around: **Mark 8:22-25**. That’s Jesus!! What could this mean for us?
 - Have you ever had to believe and fight for a long time before the healing occurred?
 - How do we “have faith” and “be realistic” at the same time?
 - More faith = more miracles!! But the pain of disappointment can be great.
 - Is there a way to encourage faith but protect ourselves at the same time?
 - Pastor Mike likes Daniel’s type of faith in **Daniel 3:16-18**.
 - Why, in my time of most desperate need, didn’t it work for me...but it did for them.
 - Here is where you just give the person a hug. Don’t say dumb stuff.
 - Where do God’s sovereignty and a person’s ability to intervene collide?
 - How good do you need to be to earn a healing?
 - Can’t earn this. But there are things we can learn.
- So, how do we learn to get better? Because we aren’t going to give up!
- Discuss how to avoid these two common coping strategies for dealing with prayer disappointment:
 - Mushy Nothing Prayers. Pure encouragement with no expectation.
 - Pray for the healing to happen! Come on!
 - Blame everything that moves.
 - The sick person, the pastor, yourself, even God. Don’t blame!
- How to go forward.
 - In faith without shame.
 - How can you apply Daniel’s type of faith to your situation?
 - Be teachable.
 - There are things we can learn. Be honest, lay down your pride, and pay attention.
 - And go forward OFTEN! Keep praying and keep being prayed for!
 - Believe for healing!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!