Small Group/Sermon Notes based on "Miracles: Part 8"

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 Eight: Judgment Miracles.**
- Not all miracles are of the fun exciting variety. There are judgment miracles as well.
    - What examples can you think of? Noah's flood. Sodom and Gomorrah. Etc.
    - Are there New Testament examples? Here are a few:Ananias and Sapphirah **Acts 4:36-5:11,** Elamas **Acts 13:6-12,** weak and sick **1 Cor 11:27-32,** powerful delusion. **2 Thess 2:9-12**
- So what do we do with this?
    - Understand God is not a wimpy enabler. What are your thoughts on Hell??
    - Realize that this is a big topic that is neglected in our culture. Have you heard much about this?
    - However, we can learn a few things. Discuss the following two topics:
- First, you are not a minister of God's wrath!
    - If you are a Christian then you are an ambassador for Christ and a minister of reconciliation between God and people.
    - You may feel like ministering God's wrath, but you don't get to! **Luke 9:51-55**
    - Here is how we are to handle those things. **Romans 12:17-21**
- Second, we need to learn to distinguish between God's discipline and God's wrath.
    - If you are a Christian then you are saved from God's wrath. However, you are not saved from God's discipline and pruning!! You're going to get that!! Any stories??
        - A difficult word to understand here is "punishment." It can mean very different things.
    - God's discipline. **Hebrews 12:2-11**
        - God disciplines those He loves. Why?
            - Problem: If you want to be loved by God but you can't handle discipline you are going to be in a difficult spot. What sorts of problems might come from this?
    - Discipline vs wrath.
        - Discipline may be painful, but it is to make you better out of love.
        - Wrath comes to destroy or inflict punishment, not to make you better.
            - Parents, you need to discipline your children for their good but don't yield to destructive wrath.
        - Problem: People can misinterpret God's discipline as wrath and think God 1) hates them or 2) has abandoned them.
    - Endure hardship as discipline.
        - Don't waste the pain, you might as well learn some lessons!!
        - How do we tell the difference between God's discipline and the garbage that happens to people in this life or even a satanic attack??
        - What are some ways you have experienced God's discipline? Discuss the following:
            - Still small voice. Conscience. Scriptures. Godly counsel.
            - Allowing natural consequences.
            - God removes His hand.
            - God intervenes with painful circumstances.
    - Perfect love casts out fear. **1 John 4:16-18**
        - God's love for us is perfect. Don't reject that love, live in it.
    - Repent and be loved by God. That is what He wants from you.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!