

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
JANUARY 21-22, 2012
JESUS THE MIRACLE Man



1. What were the high-point and the low-point of your past week?
2. Read Matthew 8:14-17. How did Jesus heal Peter's mother-in-law? If you were Peter, what would your reaction have been to what happened in verses 14-15? Would you have thought you'd be doing that in a few years (see Acts 5:12-16)?
3. Have you ever witnessed a miracle or had a miracle happen to you? What constitutes a miracle? Does God continue to do miracles today?
4. Why does God do miracles? To impress people? To reveal the truth that He is in charge? To show people how much he loves them? To make people whole and healthy—the way He wants us to be?
5. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah in verse 17. Isaiah, who wrote about 700 years before Jesus, has a lot to say about what Jesus would do. Read Isaiah 35:3-6. What do these verses say about what happens when God comes among us?
6. Have you ever prayed for something and not seen it happen? Read Matthew 21:18-22. What point does Jesus make about prayer? Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What does the apostle Paul ask for? What is God's response? Why doesn't God heal him? How do these two passages help us keep a balanced understanding of God's miracle working power in our lives?
7. Think over the past week. When did you experience anger, bitterness, anxiety, impatience, greed, etc? Tell your group about it. Share with your group any physical ailments you would like prayer for. Spend time praying for each person in your group. Pray for emotional, spiritual, and physical healing. Pray that each person would sense God's love in their hearts in new and deeper ways.

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THE STORY CONTINUES...

Jesus shows up in first century Middle East and claims to be King, not just of a certain people group, but of a spiritual kingdom that everyone is invited to live in. Jesus then teaches what it looks like to live in this Kingdom with him as King. After that Jesus actually demonstrates that He is in charge. He heals many and drives out evil from their lives. Jesus doesn't just talk the talk; he walks the walk. He proves that He is King over our bodies and their health, the spiritual world, creation—everything. Jesus isn't just interested in us believing certain things about Him; He also wants us to experience life restored and healed through His power.

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