

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

## **“Miracles, Healing and Hope”**

Pray Series

February 10/11, 2018

Main Idea:

***God provides miracles to strengthen our faith and the faith of those around us.***

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### Discovery Questions

*Note: This was a special weekend where we welcomed Jay Hewitt, our Orange Campus Lead Pastor, to share his story of surviving a brain tumor and the incredible miracles he has seen God perform. If you were unable to attend the service this past weekend, we suggest watching the message before continuing this discussion. You can find the service at [friends.church/messages](http://friends.church/messages).*

1. **“Some see nothing as a miracle; some see everything as a miracle.” Which side of this phrase do you tend to identify with? Think of a specific situation where this phrase has proved true for you, and describe to the group.**
  
2. **As you reflect on Jay’s story and the miracle that he experienced, let’s look at a few of the passages that he referenced. In both of these, we will see people respond to Jesus as a direct result of the miracles he performed.**
  - a. **Read Mark 4:35-41. What do you observe about the way the disciples viewed Jesus before, during and after the storm?**
  - b. **Read Matthew 27:54. What strikes you the most about the observation of the Centurion? Why do you think he made the statement he did?**
  
3. **Consider some of the popular views about miracles we see or hear today.**
  - a. **What seems to be the most prominent thoughts or attitudes about miracles in the today’s world?**
  - b. **What seems to be the prominent thoughts or attitudes about miracles in the church, or from your Christian friends and acquaintances?**
  - c. **In your opinion, how “big” of a miracle would need to occur to make people notice and respond?**
  
4. **“The purpose of miracles is to strengthen your faith and the faith of others around you.”**
  - a. **Can you think of an instance when you believe you experienced or witnessed a miracle? Describe this situation to your group, and talk about how it affected you.**
  - b. **Going back to the first question of this study, why do you think you tend to view *everything* or *nothing* as a miracle? What do you think God might be teaching you about how He interacts with this world?**

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

*Questions continue on the next page.*

- 5. We believe that God answers prayer, and that He still does miracles in this world.**
- a. Where have you been tempted to give up hope that God would ever work a miracle in your life?**
  - b. Spend time as a group praying *specifically* for those areas where members of your group need a miracle. Pray in faith, believing that God hears and that God will surprise you all with a miracle.**

*Leader Guide Starts on Next Page*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

## Leader Guide

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**1. “Some see nothing as a miracle; some see everything as a miracle.” Which side of this phrase do you tend to identify with? Think of a specific situation where this phrase has proved true for you, and describe to the group.**

*This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.*

*Spend 5 minutes on this question.*

**2. As you reflect on Jay’s story and the miracle that he experienced, let’s look at a few of the passages that he referenced. In both of these, we will see people respond to Jesus as a direct result of the miracles he performed.**

- a. **Read Mark 4:35-41. What do you observe about the way the disciples viewed Jesus before, during and after the storm?**
- b. **Read Matthew 27:54. What strikes you the most about the observation of the Centurion? Why do you think he made the statement he did?**

*For part “a,” one of the interesting observations is that the disciples clearly already believed that Jesus was trustworthy – we see this by the fact that they followed him. But when they encountered something beyond their control, their faith was tested. They doubted that Jesus was powerful enough to save them. After he calmed the storm, it appears that their faith was strengthened and their understanding grew of who Jesus was and the power he had.*

**3. Consider some of the popular views about miracles we see or hear today.**

- a. **What seems to be the most prominent thoughts or attitudes about miracles in the today’s world?**
- b. **What seems to be the prominent thoughts or attitudes about miracles in the church, or from your Christian friends and acquaintances?**
- c. **In your opinion, how “big” of a miracle would need to occur to make people notice and respond?**

*For both parts “a” and “b,” you will hear many different responses. The goal of these questions is to help the group develop a wider understanding of what “miracles” can do to a community or an individual. Identifying the attitudes of others around us helps us solidify our own ideas and attitudes towards miracles.*

*For part “c,” encourage your group to dive into this hypothetical. There is not right or wrong answer. Again, the purpose is to engage the group in a discussion on faith in relation to miracles. This may possibly lead into conversation about how, even if there was an undeniable miracle, many people would still refuse to believe in God or in His goodness.*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

4. **“The purpose of miracles is to strengthen your faith and the faith of others around you.”**
- a. **Can you think of an instance when you believe you experienced or witnessed a miracle? Describe this situation to your group, and talk about how it affected you.**
  - b. **Going back to the first question of this study, *why* do you think you tend to view *everything* or *nothing* as a miracle? What do you think God might be teaching you about how He interacts with this world?**

*“I think something larger than the natural has occurred.”*

*“I believe that what I experienced is not just for my own benefit – the purpose of miracles is to help others to believe.” (Faith to be strengthened, inspired to have faith. - John 20:31)*

5. **We believe that God answers prayer, and that He still does miracles in this world.**
- a. **Where have you been tempted to give up hope that God would ever work a miracle in your life?**
  - b. **Spend time as a group praying *specifically* for those areas where members of your group need a miracle. Pray in faith, believing that God hears and that God will surprise you all with a miracle.**

*This is a time to encourage each other and allow God to minister among you. We have spent the past 6 weeks talking about and discussing prayer. This is an opportunity to put that discussion into action. Don't be afraid to pray boldly, to help your group pray boldly, and to see this as an opportunity for God to do some incredible things in your group. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come in miraculous ways. You can pray simply, knowing that God already hears and knows.*