

Session Two (based on the packet's Session 1, "Miracles with a Purpose"):

Opening Prayer:

1. Any thoughts on the lecture or from your homework?
 - a.
2. What is a miracle, and what isn't? How does our society define miracles vs. how scripture defines them?
 - a. Is
 - i. 1.
 - ii. 1.
 - iii. 1.
 - b. Isn't
 - i. 1.
 - ii. 1.
 - iii. 1.
 - iv. 1.
3. How are miracles extraordinary? Consider John 9:32; 6:14; 20:25.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. How do miracles point to God's identity? Consider Psalm 145 (cf. John 2:11)
 - a.
5. How do miracles point to God's messengers? Consider 1 Kings 17:24 (cf. 2 Cor. 12:12).
 - a.
6. How do miracles point to God's truth? Consider Mark 2:1-2 and John 11:25.
 - a. Mark 2:1-2
 - i.
 - b. John 11:25
 - i.
7. From **4a, 4b, and 4c** in your packet, consider: what is the purpose of miracles?
 - a. John 20:31
 - i.
 - b. Acts 8:6
 - i.
 - c. Acts 14:3

- i.
8. From **5a, and 5b** in your packet, consider: what is the difference between miracles worked by God and magic?
 - a. Also read Acts 8:4-25
 - i. Magic:
 - 1.
 - ii. Miracles:
 - 1.

Take Home:

1. I urge you not to look for miracles to be wowed but to consider what God's purpose is for using a miracle.
2. I urge you to see the miracles recorded in Scripture as signs that God acts with purpose. Specifically, God's miracles point us to the way he acted in sending Jesus to die and miraculously be raised from the dead.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for your mighty power. Thank you for not simply working miracles to wow us but also to point us to the salvation you have worked for us in your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Thank you for your son, who set aside his ability to do miracles that day on the cross, allowing himself to die for us. And thank you for your great power shown in raising him from the dead. In Jesus' name, amen.

"You Already Sent a Miracle:"

I don't wanna struggle no more
I don't wanna sin any longer
I want you to do a miracle;
I want you to make me stronger.
I want you to do a miracle.
I want you to show me a sign,
But even if you choose not to heal my wound this time,

You already sent a miracle:
Jesus Christ, your son.
You already sent a miracle.
Though my healing isn't done,
You already sent a miracle:
Jesus Christ, your son.
You already sent a miracle.
Though my healing isn't done,
In Him, the victory's won.

I don't want to struggle today;
I want my faith to be vision.
I want you to hurry my way;
I want your present provision.
I want you to do a miracle.
I want you to show me a sign,
But even if you choose not to heal my wound this time,

Other Purposes Scripture Gives For Miracles:

1. To display his power as Creator and Almighty God (Cf. Psalm 77:14)
 - a.
2. To redeem or rescue His people (Psalm 77:15-20)
 - a.
3. To fulfill prophecy (Mt. 8:14-17)
 - a.
4. To testify to the identity of Jesus as God's Son (cf. Acts 2:22)
 - a.
5. To express compassion for the sick longing to be healed (Mk. 1:40-42)
 - a.
6. To carry or exhibit a truth to be learned (John 9:1-7)
 - a.
7. To bring people to faith (John 10:22-39;20;30-31; 1 Kings 18:39)
 - a.
8. To confirm the message of the apostles (Hebrews 2:1-4)
 - a.
9. To provide a glimpse of heaven (Revelation 21:1-4)
 - a.

Session three (based on the packet's Session 2, "Miracles and Science):

Opening Prayer:

Homework for Session Three (05-05):

1. Consider questions 2, 6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, and 7b from your packet.
 - a.
2. Familiarize yourself with John 11:1-44 and Acts 9:1-31, considering how miracles are happening in these texts.
 - a. John 11:1-44
 - i.
 - b. Acts 9:1-31
 - i.
3. If you want more to read, consider 26-29 in your enrichment magazine. We will review much of this information in our time together.
 - a.

1. Any thoughts on the lecture or from your homework?
 - a.

Science Vs. Scientism:

1. Can a Christian be a scientist?
 - a.
2. Science defined:
 - a. Just another subject which students have to learn
 - i.
 - b. As a particular way to understand and get around in the world
 - i.
3. Scientism defined:
 - a. As *the* way to understand and get around in the world
 - i.

Discussing Your Homework:

4. From **2** in your packet, do you think science disproves the miracles of the Bible? Why or why not?
5. Why should we believe the miracles recorded in Scripture? Consider **6a, 6b, and 6c** from your packet.
 - a. Disciples willing to die for their faith:
 - i.
 - b. How do 1 Corinthians 15:6 and John 11:1-44 give legitimacy to the miracles?
Consider your reflection from John 11:1-44 (# 2a on your homework sheet)
 - i.
6. Is conversion a miracle? Consider **7a** from your packet.
 - a. See Acts 9:1-31
 - i. Reversal:
 - 1.

ii. Doubts:

- 1.
- 2.

7. Is every conversion a miracle? Consider **7b** from your packet.

a. Cf. Ephesians 2:1, 8-9

i.

b. Cf. Romans 1:16; 8:7

i.

8.

Objections and Responses to Miracles:

<u>Objection:</u>	<u>Response:</u>
<u>Empiricist:</u> 1. Science: a. 2. Miracles: a.	<u>Empiricist:</u> 1. Science: a. 2. Laws of nature: a. Cf. Acts 14:15-17 i. b. Cf. Acts 17:24-28 i.
<u>Deist:</u> 1. A Wound-up Wristwatch: a. 2. God is a. Unable to: b. Doesn't care to:	<u>Deist:</u> 1. <u>Scripture as a record:</u> a. <u>Cf. Psalm 105</u> b. <u>Cf. John 1</u> 2. <u>Deism denies:</u> a. b.
<u>People then believed in supernatural; people now don't:</u> 1. Miracles: a. 2. Science: a.	<u>Supernatural:</u> 1. Scriptural witnesses of miracles: a. Cf. Mt. 1:18-19 b. Cf. Mt. 14:26 c. John 6:5-9 2. Natural reaction: a.

Bible is unreliable, thus miracles can't be believe:

1. Legends:
 - a.
2. Biased:
 - a.

Trust issues:

1. Reliable Bible:
 - a.
 - b.
2. Too short of a time:
 - a.
 - b.
3. Illogical Bias:
 - a. Motive:
 - b. Faith to the end:
4. Benefit of numerous accounts:
 - a.
5. No opposition:
 - a. Cf. Acts 4:16
 - b.

Closing Song (LSB 729 "I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus):

1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.

4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.

Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for the record of your miraculous acts through Jesus in Lazarus and in converting Saul and in converting us. We ask that you would help us to trust only in you, that your Holy Spirit working through your Word is enough for us to believe your miracles. We especially ask you to strengthen our faith in your greatest miracle – the raising of Jesus from the dead for our sakes. Help us always to trust your Word above any other word. In Jesus' name, amen.