

MIRACLES: FAITH IN ACTION

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

EVERYDAY DEVOTIONS



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this discussion guide for *Miracles: Faith in Action* by Dennis C. Stevenson Jr.! This devotional Bible study dives into biblical miracles not just as cool stories from the past, but as windows into God's unchanging character and how faith plays a role in our lives today. Whether you're reading solo, journaling your thoughts, or gathering with a small group of friends for coffee and conversation, these questions are designed to spark lively chats, deeper reflections, and maybe even a few "aha" moments about God's love and power.

Use this guide flexibly—pick a few questions per session to keep things moving, or linger on the ones that hit home. Start each meeting with a quick prayer or by reading the relevant Bible passage aloud. Explore how these ancient miracles can encourage your faith today

WHOLE-BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This opening sets the stage for the book, explaining miracles as God's active love in action and how they connect to our faith today. It emphasizes that God's consistency from Bible times to now means we can trust Him in our own "rivers" of life.

1. The intro compares God to a friend who's "all talk and no action"—but says God backs up His words with miracles. Share a time when someone's actions matched (or didn't match) their promises in your life. How does that make you feel about trusting God's promises?
2. Why do you think miracles feel "extraordinary" to us today? Have you ever experienced something that seemed like a small miracle in your everyday life, like an unexpected answer to prayer?
3. How does the idea that "God's greatest miracle is the sacrifice of His Son" change the

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way you view other Bible miracles? Can you think of one everyday "miracle" in your routine that reminds you of Jesus' love?

4. The author says miracles make faith personal—testing it or breathing life into it. What's a moment in your life where a challenge felt like a test of faith, and how did (or could) trusting God turn it around?
5. Hebrews 13:8 and James 1:17 highlight God's unchanging nature. In a world that feels so unpredictable, how does knowing "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" give you comfort or excitement?
6. The intro mentions God pursuing us despite our rebellion—what's one way you've felt God's persistent love chasing after you, even when you were running the other way?
7. If faith is key to miracles but doesn't "make" God act, how does that shift your view of prayer?
8. Try a fun "what if": What if we treated our daily obstacles like the Israelites did—expecting God to show up, but stepping out in faith first?

SESSION 1 - LAUGHTER IS NOT THE BEST MEDICINE



GENESIS 18:1-15; 21:1-2

This session focuses on Sarah's story—her long wait for a child, her bitter laugh at God's promise, and the miracle of Isaac's birth. It explores themes of shame, hope, and how God sees into our hearts.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Sarah is called a "desert rose"—beautiful but without a permanent home or child. If you were to describe Sarah in three words based on this story, what would they be? How does her beauty contrast with her inner struggles?
2. Imagine eavesdropping on that tent conversation like Sarah did. What do you think went through her mind when the visitors asked for her by name? Does it surprise you that God put her "front and center"?
3. Sarah's laugh is described as a quiet release of years of shame and frustration. Have you ever had a moment where you laughed (or sighed) at something good because it felt too impossible? What was it, and how did you feel afterward?
4. The name Isaac means "laughter"—turning Sarah's bitter chuckle into joyful celebration. What's a "name" or label from your past (like "failure" or "waiter") that God might want to rename with something positive?
5. God knew Sarah's secret thoughts and exposed her disbelief gently but firmly. What if God "called you out" on a hidden doubt today? How might that lead to hope instead of fear?
6. The lesson warns against letting bitterness take root from unmet expectations. What's one expectation you've held onto that's caused disappointment? How could shifting your focus to God's promises change that?

7. "What else could they do?"—the divine visitors challenge Sarah's doubt with God's power. If you could ask God one "impossible" question about your life right now, what would it be? Share why it's tough for you.

SESSION 2 - BREAD FROM HEAVEN



EXODUS 16

Here, we see the Israelites grumbling in the wilderness, and God's gracious response with quail, manna, and daily provision. It highlights grace despite complaints, the test of obedience, and trusting God day by day.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Israelites had seen miracles like the Red Sea parting just weeks earlier, yet they grumbled about food. What's something amazing God has done for you recently that you might forget when hunger (literal or figurative) hits?
2. God provides despite their bad attitudes—pure grace! Think of a time when you were grumpy or ungrateful, but someone (maybe God through a person) still showed kindness. How did it make you feel?
3. Manna means "What is it?"—a total mystery food. If God dropped "manna" into your life today (something unexpected but good), what do you think it would look like? Would you recognize it right away?
4. The rules for manna—no hoarding, double on Friday—were a faith test. Which rule would you have struggled with most as an Israelite, and why? How does it mirror trusting God with your finances or time today?
5. Picture the rotting hoarded manna: gross! What's a time you tried to "hoard" God's provision (like saving grace for later or controlling a blessing)? How did it "rot" or backfire?
6. God planned for 40 years of manna, not just one meal. How does knowing God's big-picture view change the way you handle short-term frustrations, like a tough week?

7. The Sabbath twist—extra manna that doesn't spoil—honors rest. In our busy world, how could practicing "Sabbath trust" (letting go of planning every detail) bring more peace to your routine?
8. Quail, manna tasting like honey wafers—God didn't skimp on the good stuff. What's a "honey wafer" moment in your life where God's provision felt extra sweet?

SESSION 3 - CROSSING THE JORDAN



JOSHUA 3 & 4

This session explores the dramatic river crossing as a miracle of faith, leadership, and remembrance, showing God's power to part waters (again!) and affirm Joshua while building a lasting testimony.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Picture the priests stepping into the raging Jordan—talk about the bravery that took! What's a "raging river" in your life right now, and how might "getting your feet wet" in faith change your approach to it?
2. Joshua had to lead after Moses, and God used this miracle to boost his credibility. Who in your life (or even in the Bible) has stepped into big shoes, and how did God show up to affirm them? Relate it to a leadership role you've had or avoided.
3. The memorial of 12 stones is such a cool, tangible reminder—why do you think God wanted something physical to point to His power? Share a "memorial" from your own story, like a photo, journal, or object, that helps you remember God's faithfulness.
4. The miracle happened 15 miles upstream, out of sight, and took time to reach them. How does that mirror times when God's work in your life feels delayed or hidden? What's one area where impatience has tripped you up, and how can this story encourage patience?
5. Faith is front and center here: Joshua's bold plan, the priests' obedience, the people's trust. Which character's faith journey speaks to you most, and why?
6. Imagine you're one of the 12 stone-pickers—what emotion would you feel carrying that rock out of the dry riverbed?
7. This crossing echoes the Red Sea but for a new generation—how does that show

God's desire to make miracles personal for each era? Fun twist: If God parted a modern "Jordan" for you (like traffic or a tough decision), what would it look like, and how would you build your own memorial?

8. The story terrified the people of Jericho and unified Israel. How can sharing our own "miracle stories" impact others around us today—maybe even "weaken the walls" of doubt in friends or family?

SESSION 4 - THE WIDOW'S OIL



2 KINGS 4:1-7

This session tells the story of a desperate widow whose faith leads to a multiplying miracle with her jar of oil. It explores themes of crisis, obedience, and God's provision through our circumstances, rather than zapping them away.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Picture yourself as the widow: bills piling up, kids at risk—what's the first thing you'd do in her shoes? How does her choice to go to Elisha instead inspire you?
2. The widow starts by kind of "bargaining" with God about her husband's faithfulness. Have you ever approached prayer like that, trying to remind God of your "good deeds"? What happened?
3. Elisha asks, "What do you have in the house?" It's a practical question, but it pulls her back to reality. What's something small and ordinary in your life right now that God might want to use for something big?
4. Borrowing all those pots from neighbors must have been awkward—talk about stepping out in faith! Share a funny or embarrassing story of when you had to trust God publicly. How did it turn out?
5. The miracle's size matched her faith: more pots, more oil. If she had grabbed every container in town, imagine the oil flood! What's a "what if" where bolder faith could have multiplied a blessing in your past?
6. God didn't turn oil into money—He worked through her selling it. How does this show God's style of provision? Think of a time when God's help came in an unexpected, hands-on way for you.
7. The story ends on a high note with enough oil for debts *and* the future. How does

this reflect God's heart for abundance? Where do you need to see His provision stretching further in your life?

8. Closing the door for a private miracle—why do you think God kept it intimate? Contrast that with a time when God worked openly in your life. What made the difference?

SESSION 5 - NAAMAN AND THE MUDDY RIVER



2 KINGS 5

Here, we meet Naaman, the proud Syrian commander with leprosy, who expects a flashy healing but gets a simple command to wash in the Jordan. The story unpacks pride vs. humility, inner transformation, and God's grace extending to outsiders.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Naaman's a big-shot warrior, but "he was a leper" changes everything—how does this remind you that no status hides our deeper needs from God?
2. The little slave girl suggests Elisha—imagine being her: Captured and serving your enemy, yet pointing him to God. Who's been a "slave girl" voice of faith in your life?
3. Naaman rages about the muddy Jordan vs. his fancy rivers—what's funny or relatable about his expectations? Share a time you wanted God to heal or fix something your way.
4. His servants talk him into dipping seven times—how does humble obedience (even when it feels silly) lead to breakthrough? What's a "Jordan dip" God might be asking of you?
5. After healing, Naaman ditches idols for the one true God and even asks forgiveness for future fake worship. How does this show the miracle went beyond skin-deep?
6. The story says no one's beyond God's reach, even a "defeater of kings." Who in your world feels like a Naaman—tough exterior, but maybe open to God's grace?
7. What if Naaman had stormed off in pride? Brainstorm: How might his life (and Syria's) have changed? Tie it to how pride blocks miracles today.
8. Linking to healing today: The author notes God can heal but cares more about our hearts. How has God transformed something "leprosy-like" (a flaw or sin) in you?

SESSION 6 - THE BACKWARD SHADOW



2 KINGS 20:1-11

This session dives into King Hezekiah's story—a faithful leader facing death, prayer, and a mind-blowing sign from God. It's a tale of reversal, from despair to promise, showing God's faithfulness amid national threats and personal crisis.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Hezekiah was a king doing big things for God—like cleaning up the temple and fighting pagan worship—when illness hit. What "good works" in your life feel interrupted right now, and how does Hezekiah's story give you hope?
2. Picture Hezekiah on his deathbed, praying not with bargains but by reminding God of his wholehearted devotion. What's one way you've experienced "walking faithfully" with God, and what would it look like to pray like that in tough times?
3. The "backward shadow" is such a wild miracle—time literally reversing! If you could ask God for a sign like that today, what would it be, and why? (Bonus: How does this remind us God can handle the impossible?)
4. God promises Hezekiah life, healing, protection from Assyria, and time to finish his work—all "for my own sake and for my servant David's sake." How does this show God's bigger plan at work, even in personal stories like Hezekiah's?
5. Hezekiah weeps bitterly, not just from fear of death, but worry over his unfinished legacy. Share a "what if" scenario: What legacy are you building for God's kingdom, and how might a miracle like this motivate you to keep going?
6. The session ties Hezekiah's healing to salvation—we get new life through Jesus, even if we can't "test" it yet. When have doubts crept in about God's promises for your future? How does the backward shadow build your trust?

7. Hezekiah's reforms faced opposition, like laughter at reviving Passover. Think about modern "reforms" in your faith community—what resistance have you seen, and how can we encourage each other like Isaiah did for Hezekiah?
8. Fun twist: If you were Hezekiah choosing the sign (forward or backward shadow), which would you pick and why? How does this miracle make you excited about God's creativity in answering prayer?

SESSION 7 - ON THE WATER IN THE STORM



MATTHEW 14:22-33

This session recounts Jesus walking on water during a storm, with Peter stepping out in faith—only to sink when doubt crept in. It explores themes of fear turning to faith, the battle of "spiritual double vision," and how this miracle mirrors the gospel's reliance on God's power.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Picture the disciples' rollercoaster night: from feeding the 5,000 to battling a storm without Jesus. What emotions do you think they felt, and how have you experienced a similar "high to low" in your faith journey?
2. Peter blurts out, "Lord, if it's you, command me to come!" What does this say about his personality, and how does it inspire (or challenge) you to step out boldly in tough situations?
3. The author calls Peter's water-walking a "world record" moment of faith in action. If you were in that boat, would you have joined him? Why or why not—what holds people back from "getting out of the boat" today?
4. Talk about that "spiritual double vision": focusing on Jesus vs. the waves. Share a recent time when you faced this in your life—what helped you keep your eyes on Jesus (or what pulled you toward the storm)?
5. Jesus asks Peter, "Why did you doubt?" How does this question hit home for you? What's one doubt that often sneaks in during your storms, and how might remembering Jesus' power change that?
6. The disciples worship Jesus right in the boat after the miracle. How is Peter's risky

step a deeper kind of worship than just words? In what ways can we "worship through action" in our daily lives?

7. This story is called a picture of the gospel—relying totally on Jesus' love and power. How does Peter's sinking-and-saving moment reflect your own story of needing rescue?
8. Fun "what if": If Jesus invited you to walk on water today (maybe metaphorically, like a big life decision), what would your response be? How could this session encourage you to say "Come" more often?

SESSION 8 - THE SNEAKY MIRACLE



MARK 5:24-34

This session dives into the story of the woman with the bleeding condition (Mark 5:25-34), her bold faith in the crowd, and Jesus' kind response. It spotlights how faith activates God's power and turns isolation into belonging.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This unnamed woman spent 12 years isolated—socially, spiritually, and emotionally. What details from her story make her desperation feel real to you, and how does her courage inspire your own faith steps?
2. Why do you think Jesus stopped the whole crowd to ask, "Who touched me?" instead of letting the healing happen quietly? How does this "sneaky" moment show His care for her heart, not just her body?
3. The session says faith is the "channel" for God's power, starting with the gospel. How does this woman's touch of Jesus' garment illustrate faith as active trust, and what does it teach us about approaching Jesus today?
4. Jesus calls her "Daughter"—a word of family and affirmation after years of rejection. Where in your life do you need to hear something like that from God? How can faith help you claim your place in His family?
5. Picture yourself in that jostling crowd, desperate like the woman. If you could "sneak" a touch of Jesus for healing in your life, what issue would you bring to Him, and why?
6. The disciples saw the crowd's pressure but missed the faith-touch. What's something in your daily "crowd" (like work or social media) that distracts you from recognizing God's subtle power at work?

7. The story ends with her going to the Temple for the first time in years. How has faith "turned your life around" like hers, from hopelessness to hope? Share a gospel moment that's changed your past, present, or future.
8. The questions at the end of the session ask about emulating faithful people. Who in your life (or from the Bible) has "mustard seed" faith you'd like to learn from, and how can your group support each other in growing it?

SESSION 9 - THE LONG DISTANCE MIRACLE



LUKE 7:1-10

This session spotlights the Roman centurion in Luke 7:1-10, whose bold faith leads to his servant's healing from afar. We see themes of authority, humility, and trusting Jesus without needing to "see" the action up close—plus some intriguing collaboration between unlikely folks.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The centurion was a tough Roman soldier who built a synagogue for the Jews he oversaw. What surprises you most about his character? How does this show God's love crossing cultural or "enemy" lines?
2. The Jewish leaders vouch for the centurion by saying he's "worthy" because of his good deeds, but he insists he's not. How does his humility challenge the way we sometimes approach God with our resumes of good works?
3. Picture the centurion sending friends to stop Jesus from coming over: "Just say the word!" If you were in his shoes, with a loved one dying, would you want Jesus there in person for the drama, or trust His word from a distance? Why?
4. Jesus marvels at the centurion's faith, saying it's greater than anything He's seen in Israel. What does this "long-distance" faith look like in action? Share a story from your life (or someone you know) where trusting God's authority without visuals paid off.
5. The author asks how we "micromanage God" instead of letting faith take over. What's one way you've tried to control a situation with God lately? How could stepping back build your trust in His power?
6. This miracle ties into the gospel through faith in Jesus' authority over sin and death.

How does the centurion's story mirror the kind of faith needed for salvation—believing without seeing?

7. Fun "what if": If the centurion lived today, maybe he'd text Jesus instead of sending friends. How might modern tech (or distractions) make it harder—or easier—to exercise this kind of straightforward faith?
8. The session ends with questions about releasing control to God. What's a "want" in your life right now that only He can handle? Are you ready to let Him do it His way, like the centurion did?

SESSION 10 - WALKING AND LEAPING AND PRAISING GOD



ACTS 3:1-10

This session dives into the story of Peter healing a lame man at the temple gate, showing how faith opens the door to God's power and leads to praise and transformation. It's a vivid picture of two worlds colliding—the beggar's routine hopelessness and Peter's bold confidence. Let's unpack the excitement, the characters, and what it means for us.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Picture the scene: A man who's been lame since birth, carried to the temple gate every day to beg. What do you imagine his daily life felt like? How might that mirror times when you've felt "stuck" in your own circumstances?
2. Peter says, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you." That's a mic-drop moment! What "non-material" gifts do you have from God that you could share with someone in need right now?
3. The healed man doesn't just walk—he leaps, enters the temple, and praises God loudly. If you were suddenly freed from a long-term struggle (physical, emotional, or otherwise), how would you celebrate? Would you be more like the quiet walker or the leaping praiser?
4. Peter breaks the usual routine by stopping and making eye contact. Have you ever had a moment where stepping out of your comfort zone led to something amazing? What made you bold enough to do it?
5. The crowd recognizes the man and is amazed—leading straight into Peter's sermon and more people coming to faith. How does this show that one act of faith can ripple out to bless others? Share a "ripple effect" story from your life or church.

6. The session asks if you're more like the begging man (focused on circumstances) or Peter (full of vibrant faith). Be honest—what's pulling your focus lately, and how can we pray for each other to shift it toward Jesus?
7. Faith isn't about performing miracles ourselves, but being open to God's power. What's one small step of faith you could take this week to see God move in your world?
8. The man grabs Peter's hand and responds to the command—what role do you think obedience and trust play in experiencing God's action? Have you seen that in your own faith journey?

