

MIRACLE—1 “Calming The Storm”

Tailor the following questions to fit the needs of your group. Start with a BREAKING THE ICE question, then get real with two or three CONNECTING questions and end by challenging one another to TAKE IT HOME. For those who want to explore God’s Word further, use the DISCOVERY QUESTIONS.

KEY POINTS:

1. Your friend is trouble.
2. Storm sources:
 - Enemy’s **attacks**
 - Bad **decisions**
 - God’s **forecast**
3. You are in the storm:
 - By God’s **appointment**
 - With His **presence**-Sometimes God calms the storm. Other times He calms His child.
 - For His **purposes** - In adversity, we want God to do a **removing** job, He wants to do an **improving** job.

FAITH, LIKE FILM,
DEVELOPS BEST
IN THE DARK.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What was your scariest “bad weather” experience?
- Why do most people turn to God when trouble strikes?

CONNECTING:

1. **What storm(s) are you currently facing?** Is it mildly upsetting, nerve-wracking, or life threatening? What/who do you see as the source of the storm? What difference would it make if you viewed this as God’s appointment? What are some things God wants us to learn from our trials?
2. **Describe how God is sustaining you (or has sustained you in the past) during a difficulty.** How quickly do you turn to the Lord when you feel distressed by your circumstances? Do problems tend to make you more aware of God’s presence or does God seem distant and uninvolved? What promise or truth do we need to believe when we don’t feel God’s presence or understand His purpose?
3. **Explain how God brought about His purpose through a storm in your life.** While in the midst of the storm, what were you tempted to believe about God? What did you learn from it? What improvements did God make in you?
4. Read John 14:27 and 16:33. Why do we lack peace in the midst of the storms of life, when we have Christ is living in us? Are you more apt to ask God to calm the storm (change the externals) or to change you on the inside so that you experience His peace?

TAKE IT HOME:

1. What will you do this week to prepare for future storms and strengthen your faith in Jesus? What specific ways can you demonstrate your belief that Jesus is present in you and is calming you in the midst of your storm?
2. If you are currently going through a storm, ask God to show you His purpose and how, through it, He is training you. Ask Him to help you see through the storm to who He is and what He is doing. Thank Him for the storm and for His indwelling presence.
3. Who do you know that is needing God’s peace in the midst of a storm? Pray for any in your group who are currently going through a difficult time. Ask the Lord to calm them with His presence and reveal His purpose. Find out what you can do to support and encourage them during this time.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. Read Matthew and Luke’s account of Jesus calming the storm: Matthew 8:23-27; Luke 8:22-24.
 - What was Jesus doing during the storm? What did the disciples think about Jesus being asleep? How do you react to utter calm, in someone else, when all *you* feel is fear or panic?
 - After the storm, what did Jesus ask the disciples? What did the storm reveal about the disciples’ faith? What did they fail to realize about Jesus?
 - How should the knowledge of Jesus’ presence and sovereignty affect our response to life’s storms? How can we experience God’s peace in the midst of the storm?
2. Read more about God’s purpose for our storms or trials: 1 Peter 1:6-9; James 1:2-4; 2 Corinthians 1:8-10.
 - How are we to view our trials? How can we sincerely rejoice or give thanks when we are going through hard times?
 - What purposes for trials are mentioned in these passages? Does understanding the source of the trial or storm make a difference in how you respond? Regardless of the source, what does God promise to do? (See Romans 8:28-29)
 - How do the storms of life test, strengthen and purify our faith? What is faith? Why is this so important to God? (See Hebrews 11:1)

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Romans 5:3-6; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Corinthians 4:8-11,16-18; Isaiah 41:10; 43:1-4

MIRACLE—2 “Casting Out the Evil Spirit”

Tailor the following questions to fit the needs of your group. Start with a BREAKING THE ICE question, then get real with two or three CONNECTING questions and end by challenging one another to TAKE IT HOME. For those who want to explore God’s Word further, use the DISCOVERY QUESTIONS.

KEY POINTS:

1. Obstacles to real faith:
 - **Sign-demanding** faith.
 - **Second-hand** faith.
 - **Self-centered** faith
2. How do we develop real faith?
 - Immerse yourself in God’s **Word**
 - **Act** on God’s Word

FAITH DOESN'T JUST FOCUS ON
WHAT HE DOES, BUT WHO HE IS!

BREAKING THE ICE:

- **If God would do one thing you asked, what would you ask Him to do? Do you believe God can do it?**
- In what ways do you think we are an “unbelieving generation” like the people of Jesus’ day?

CONNECTING:

1. **Which do you relate to most: sign-demanding faith, second-hand faith, self-centered faith or real faith?** Share a personal example of sign-demanding, second-hand or self-centered faith. Why is it important to base our faith on God’s Word?
2. **Describe how God has increased your faith. What do you have the most trouble believing God will do?** What is the greatest miracle you have ever witnessed? Why do some people have greater faith than others?
3. Share a time you have felt inadequate in your faith when praying for someone. How did your doubt or unbelief affect the way you prayed? How should we pray when we feel inadequate? Why is it important to keep our faith focused on who Christ *is* rather than what we want Him to do?
4. Jesus said, “Everything is possible for him who believes.” What limits or restrictions have you put on Jesus? In what areas do you need to cry out to Him and say, “help my unbelief”?
5. Share a seemingly impossible situation that you are believing God will change? How long are you willing to wait without seeing results? In what areas of your life do you find it difficult to believe and trust God? How much importance do you place on God’s Word, as it relates to developing your faith? What is the difference between believing *in* God and believing God? Give an example.

TAKE IT HOME:

1. In what areas is your faith the weakest? What will you do to immerse yourself in God’s Word to build your faith? When will you do this? What specific ways do you need to act on God’s Word?
2. In what area is God asking you to exercise faith *in* Christ? What action will you take this week to demonstrate your belief in who Christ is, what He has done and/or what He will do through you?
3. What miracle will you begin to trust God for this week? What is your biblical basis for your faith? How will you act on your belief? What faith risk are you willing to take?

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. Read the account of Jesus deliverance of the boy who had an evil spirit in Mark 9:14-32 and Matthew 17:14-20.
 - Before this incident, what types of miracles had the disciples already witnessed? Why were they not able to cast the demon out of the boy? How do you think the disciples felt after their failed attempt?
 - Why do you think Jesus was upset with their lack of faith? Does Jesus’ response seem reasonable or too harsh?
 - What type of faith did the disciples have? What was their faith (belief) in Christ primarily based on? What kind of faith did the boy’s father have?
 - What does it mean to have faith the size of a mustard seed? What part does faith have in our receiving what we ask for?
2. Read more about faith in Hebrews 11:1-13.
 - Define faith in your own words. Which is the greater reality: the seen or the unseen? (see 2 Corinthians 4:18) Why is our faith so important to God?
 - What did Noah, Abraham and Sarah each hear from God? What did each one believe God would do? How was their faith tested? How long did they each have to wait to see the fulfillment of what God promised? What do you consider the greatest example of faith that you have ever seen? Why?
 - What has God personally spoken to your heart about that you are trusting Him to do? How long are you willing to wait for God to fulfill what He has promised? With what do you need to trust God even though you can’t see what the future holds? How can you show this trust?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Matthew 21:22; John 6:26-30; 14:12-13; 15:7-8; 20:24-25, 29-31; Romans 10:17; Galatians 3:5; James 2:14-26; 4:3

MIRACLE—3 “Poolside Miracle”

Tailor the following questions to fit the needs of your group. Start with a **BREAKING THE ICE** question, then get real with two or three **CONNECTING** questions and end by challenging one another to **TAKE IT HOME**. For those who want to explore God’s Word further, use the **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**.

KEY POINTS:

1. What is your handicap?
 - Jesus offers a chance to change
2. How **BIG** is your God?
 - God is bigger than your problem
3. What is God telling you to do?
 - Obedience precedes the miraculous

BREAKING THE ICE:

- When have you felt that God took too long to do something you had trusted Him to do?
- Which is easier for you to believe: that God will perform a miracle for you or for someone else?

CONNECTING:

1. **What is the handicap in your life that no one can see?** How long have you struggled with this handicap? Does your spiritual handicap relate more to being blind, lame or paralyzed? Explain. How desperate are you for Jesus to heal you?
2. **Do you suffer from the small God, BIG problems syndrome? Explain.** Where is our focus when our problems seem bigger than God? Do you have difficulty believing that God *can* heal/change you or that He *will* heal/change you? How can we strengthen our faith in God’s power and willingness to heal/change us?
3. Share a personal example of when “obedience preceded the miraculous” in your life? What miracle are you trusting God to perform? What step of obedience is God asking you to take?
4. In what ways have you been spiritually, physically or emotionally healed by Jesus? What was your condition before and what changed as a result of being healed? How does God use our misery to prepare us to believe and receive His grace?

SPIRITUAL HANDICAPS
BLIND: TO TRUTH, PURPOSE, SIN
LAME: WOUNDED, BROKEN, BITTER
PARALYZED: APATHETIC, FROZEN,
STUCK, ADDICTED

TAKE IT HOME:

1. Who do you know that is struggling with a handicap and needs encouragement? How can you help them see the goodness and bigness of God? Pray for them each day this week and trust God to perform a miracle in their life.
2. This week, in order to focus on the greatness of your God, instead of the magnitude of your problems, focus on His faithfulness in the past, His promises for the future and His presence every moment.
3. What miracle are you wanting God to do in your life? What is God “telling” you to do? What steps of obedience do you need to take this week? Share this with someone who will encourage you to follow through.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. Read the account of Jesus healing the lame man in John 5:1-9.
 - How long had the lame man been in this condition? What reasons did he give for not being healed? Was his faith in God or in his ability to get into the pool?
 - Why do you think Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed? How would this man’s life change once he was able to walk? What mixed emotions do you think he felt about being healed?
 - What did Jesus ask the man to do? What do you think went through the lame man’s mind and emotions before he obeyed? Was he healed before or after he obeyed? How is our obedience the evidence of true faith?
2. Read the “rest of the story” in John 5:10-18.
 - What was the response of the religious people to Jesus’ miracle? Why did they have a problem with this man carrying his pallet? How is this religious mindset still a problem today? Give an example.
 - What did Jesus tell the man after He found him in the temple? Do you think the man’s handicap was due to personal sin? What kind of physical or emotional handicaps can be the consequence of our own actions (sin)?
 - This man was healed without knowing who healed him. Once the man was healed, what did he do (vs. 14-15)?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Luke 5:4-6; 18-25; John 9:1-7; 10:27; James 2:21-24; Isaiah 61:1-3; Acts 3:1-8;

MIRACLE—4 “RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD”

Tailor the following questions to fit the needs of your group. Start with a BREAKING THE ICE question, then get real with two or three CONNECTING questions and end by challenging one another to TAKE IT HOME. For those who want to explore God’s Word further, use the DISCOVERY QUESTIONS.

KEY POINTS:

Death Traps:

- 1) Thomas was dead in his doubts
- 2) Martha was dead in her delay
- 3) Mary was dead in her discouragement

Jesus came so you could live!

- 1) What in your life is dead or dying?
- 2) Stop dressing like a dead man.
- 3) Live again!

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What are some polite phrases we use to describe death?
- What is the most amazing miracle you’ve ever witnessed?

CONNECTING:

1. **Read Ephesians 2:1-6.** What are three characteristics of a person who is still “dead in their sins”? **If you are a Christ-follower, describe your life while you were still “dead” in your sins.** When did God raise you from the dead? **How is your life different today?**
3. In what areas of your life has God raised you from the dead? How did it reveal God’s glory? What does it mean to be “alive with Christ”? How is this evident in your life? What does it mean to experience abundant life (John 10:10b)?
4. **What in your life is dead (or dying) that God wants to resurrect? What “grave clothes” need to be removed so you can live?** (Your answer might include unhealthy relationships, negative thoughts/beliefs, wounds from the past, hurts, destructive behaviors, addictions, etc.). How can our LifeGroup be instrumental in helping to remove each other’s “grave clothes”? What kind of help is truly *life* giving? Share a time when others have helped you in this way.
5. Under what circumstances have you *doubted* the promises or power of God? When has God’s response to your situation in life seemed *delayed*? Why are we sometimes *disappointed* with God? In what *discouraging* situation, in your life, do you need to trust God?

We can be dead
while we live.

TAKE IT HOME:

1. What “grave clothes” do you need help removing? Who has God placed in your life that can assist with this? Commit to contact this person and ask for their help.
2. What beliefs do you need to change to overcome your doubts, delay or discouragement? How will you act on your belief that you have been resurrected in Christ?
3. With whom will you share the miracle that Christ has done in your life? Write down your personal testimony, describing how Jesus raised you from the dead.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. Read the account of Lazarus’ death in John 11:1-16.
 - Why did the disciples respond negatively to Jesus’ plan to return to Judea?
 - What was the purpose of Lazarus’ sickness (v. 4)? What did Jesus mean when he said that Lazarus had fallen asleep? What did the disciples think Jesus meant?
 - Why did Jesus delay going to Lazarus? When have you thought that you had a better plan for your life than the one God was working out?
2. Read how Martha and Mary responded to Jesus in John 11:17-37.
 - How did Martha respond to Jesus’ late arrival? What wrong assumptions did she make about the situation? About the resurrection? How are we guilty of this today?
 - What was the response of the crowd (v.36-37)? Fill in the blank: “If God really loves me, why didn’t He _____.” What are some possible reasons God delays in performing a miracle in our lives?
 - How did Jesus respond to Mary and the others’ weeping? Since Jesus knew he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, why do you think He wept?
3. Read the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead in John 11:38-44.
 - What did Jesus tell the others to do? How did Martha respond to Jesus’ command? What do we learn, through this story, concerning the importance of our beliefs? What do we learn about the character of God?
 - Whom did Jesus tell to take off Lazarus’ grave clothes? What role do other believers play in our experiencing our new life in Christ?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1 Timothy 5:6; John 10:10; Romans 6:4-11; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 1:18-20; 4:22-32.

MIRACLE—5 “WATER TO WINE”

Tailor the following questions to fit the needs of your group. Start with a BREAKING THE ICE question, then get real with two or three CONNECTING questions and end by challenging one another to TAKE IT HOME. For those who want to explore God’s Word further, use the DISCOVERY QUESTIONS.

KEY POINTS:

How do we live through unmet expectations?

- 1) Recognize things may get **worse** before God makes them **better**.
- 2) Look to Jesus for your **solution**.
- 3) Do what Jesus **says**.
- 4) Let Jesus **reveal** Himself to others through you.

Start looking for God to show up and deliver those little miracles and be sure you give Him the credit.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What makes an event miraculous or supernatural?
- What are some common unmet expectations people have during the holidays?

CONNECTING:

An expectation can be something we are anticipating, earnestly desire and “expect” to happen. Expectations occur when we compare ourselves with others or may result when promises have been made or implied. They can also be the result of true needs in our lives; such as, being loved, accepted, and secure. Unmet expectations can lead to disappointment, hurt and anger.

1. What unmet expectations are you dealing with this Christmas? Is this expectation based on comparing yourself with others, promises made, or a true need? What would it look like for you to look to Jesus for the solution?
2. What are some unmet expectations you’ve had of God, in the past? How did you deal with your disappointment? What is your response to the idea that *things may get worse before God makes them better*? How would believing that God is “saving the best for last” help you deal with your disappointments?
3. What recent miracle has Jesus done in your life? How quick are you to recognize and acknowledge the small, yet significant ways God is working in your life? Why is this important?

4. Who has personally revealed God’s goodness to you the most? What are some specific ways we can reveal God’s goodness to others? How does Jesus want to reveal Himself through you to your family; to your neighbors?

TAKE IT HOME:

1. Spend some time identifying your unmet expectations and surrender them to Christ. What has God done or promised to do in His Word that you need to believe? Have you obeyed what Jesus has asked you to do? Why or why not? Decide to do what He says and leave the results to Him.
2. What is one thing you want Jesus to change in your life? What is He asking you to do that you haven’t done? Share this with someone in your LifeGroup and act on what God has shown you.
3. How will you allow Christ to live through you during the holidays? To whom does Jesus want to reveal His goodness, through you? Pray about the specific opportunities you have to demonstrate God’s love to your family, friends and neighbors.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. Read the account of Jesus turning water to wine in John 2:1-11.
 - What expectation did Jesus’ mother have of Jesus? How did Jesus respond to her request? What did Jesus mean by His time had not yet come? Why do you think Jesus performed this miracle anyway?
 - What were the water pots used for? What significance, if any, does turning the water into wine have?
 - What did this miracle accomplish? How do you think this miracle impacted the servants? The disciples?
2. Read James 2:14-26.
 - What is the relationship between faith and obedience?
 - Which is easier for you —talking about your faith with others or demonstrating God’s love for them?
 - What did Abraham do to show his faith? What is one way to tell if a person has a real, living faith? How does verse 26 help us to see the role of works?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Proverbs 13:12; John 14:1-13; 15:7-8; Hebrews 11:39; James 4:14-17; 1 Peter 4:8-13

MIRACLE—6

“OPENING BLIND EYES-GOD’S LIGHT FOR YOUR DARKNESS”

John 9:1-41

Tailor the following questions to fit the needs of your group. Start with a BREAKING THE ICE question, then get real with two or three CONNECTING questions and end by challenging one another to TAKE IT HOME. For those who want to explore God’s Word further, use the DISCOVERY QUESTIONS.

KEY POINTS:

God’s Light for your darkness:

- 1) See through the **obstacle** illusions.
- 2) See God’s response to instant **obedience**.
- 3) See your blind **spots**.
- 4) **Believing** is seeing.

An illusion is
an erroneous
perception
of reality.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- In what way would being physically blind change your life?
- What are some common “blind spots” that you see in others (remember to protect the identity of the person)?

CONNECTING QUESTIONS:

1. **What does God want us to see when life is *blurry*?** What eternal truths do we need to focus on and believe in order to truly see what God is doing? How is your life *blurry* at present? What *obstacles* do you need to see through (to who God is and what He is doing)?
2. **What has God asked you to do that doesn’t make sense?** Share a time when you were quick to obey Jesus and it resulted in clarity or a miracle? Why does God often ask us to believe and obey before He does a miracle?
3. Through what weakness or disability can God’s work be displayed in your life? How has Jesus healed you of your spiritual blindness? How has this changed your life?
4. What obstacles (erroneous perceptions) did the Pharisees have concerning Jesus? What was their “blind spot”? How can living by the law (external compliance to rules) blind you to the reality of Jesus living in and through us? How can our preconceived ideas of what and how God is working blind us to what God is actually doing?
5. We are prone to judging others by externals. How can our preconceived ideas or beliefs about others prevent us from seeing who they truly are and what God is doing in their lives?

TAKE IT HOME:

1. In the areas where you need clarity, ask someone who knows Jesus well to help you recognize your blind spots. As a LifeGroup, pray for one another to have greater clarity and to respond to God with instant obedience.
2. How can you bring light to others who don’t know Christ? Where is God asking you to **go** and what is He asking you to **do**? (Example: Is there someone you could bring to the Christmas experience who doesn’t know Christ?)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. Read the account of Jesus healing the blind man in John 9:1-11..
 - Why had this man been born blind? What are the works of God that were displayed in him? What did Jesus mean by, “we must work the works of God as long as it is day”? When did the night come? What does it mean to you that Jesus is the light of the world? How are we now the light to the world?
 - What method did Jesus use to bring sight to the blind man? Why do you think He chose this method? What blind spot was He trying to expose in the Pharisees?
 - What did Jesus ask the blind man to do? Was Jesus asking him to do something he was incapable of doing? How did Jesus make it natural for this man to obey? (Hint: if you get dirt in your eye, what do you want to do?)
2. Read John 9:13-34 to recognize the blind spots of the blind man’s neighbors and the religious leaders.
 - Why did the healed man’s neighbors question his identity? What blind spots did they have?
 - Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus for healing the blind man? What were their blind spots that kept them from seeing Jesus for who He truly is? How does living by the law (rules) blind us to the reality of Christ living in us and others?
 - What was the blind man’s perception of Jesus? What right beliefs did he have about Jesus? (vv. 30-33)
3. Read Jesus’ response in John 9:35-41.
 - Why did the blind man ask Jesus to identify the Son of Man? What did he do once he realized who Jesus was? Which was the most significant miracle: regaining his physical sight or believing and worshipping Jesus?
 - What did Jesus mean when He said, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see, your sin remains.’ Why is it better to be blind and know it than to be blind and think you can see?”

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Is. 45:2-3; 60:1-3,19; Matt.5:14-16; John 1:4-5; 3:19-21; 8:12; 12:35-36, 44-46