

Chapter 2

Bible Concept: Miracles

The Bible is filled with miraculous stories. Some are very difficult to understand or even to believe. A miracle is something that happens which has no logical reason and which science cannot prove why it happened. The central character in any miracle is God, for God is not limited to human reason and logic. God can make extraordinary things happen in the lives of ordinary people.

To believe that something is a miracle, we only need to believe that God is at work. The result of a miracle is always something that defies logic. Finding your keys after praying about it — sorry, not a miracle. While the prayer may have calmed you from hysteria of not being able to find your keys, your prayer did not make your keys suddenly appear in a place they were not before. You would have found them anyway. Having an unexplained healing to an illness for which doctors have no cure, now that is a miracle, because God is at work removing the illness from your body.

In a miracle, God is revealed as loving, forgiving and ever-restoring to wholeness in the midst of what is broken. The person who experiences a miracle always sees this loving, forgiving and restoring God more clearly than before. This is why faith in God is the center for any person experiencing a miracle.

While we may not see miracles in today's world quite the same way as how we read about miracles in the Bible, miracles are still present and still happening in our midst. When you look for miracles around you, look for people who are being drawn closer to God through forgiveness, through sacraments of Baptism and Communion (yes, sacraments are miracles), through reading God's Word, and most powerfully, through prayer.

Memory
Verse

Chapter 2, Verse 17 reads:

When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough."

New Living Translation (NLT)

When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous, but the sinner."

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Reflect on that statement for a moment.

Who do you expect Jesus to be interacting with the most as you read this story?

Definition

Jesus is accused of blasphemy. Blasphemy is a concept which involves speaking evil against God, or speaking in God's place, or treating something very sacred in an unholy way.

The people who didn't like Jesus didn't like the way Jesus acted as though he were God. They couldn't believe that God could become one of us, and they especially didn't think someone like Jesus could be God.

Focus Story: Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, 2:23-28

What is the third commandment, according to the Small Catechism? (See Exodus 20:8 for help)

The Hebrew word 'Sabbath' can be translated as either 'seventh day' or 'day of rest.' The Sabbath Day is sacred because of what God did on the 7th day of creation. What did God do? (see Genesis 2:1-2:4 for help)

What types of things do you consider taboo, that is something you can't do, if you are going to enjoy a day of rest?

It might seem silly to us today that picking grain would be a violation of this commandment, for getting food is so natural and even on a day of rest, we need to eat. Yet, the people in Jesus' day considered the Sabbath Day so sacred and special that even picking grain was taboo on the Sabbath Day. For Christians, Sunday, the first day of the week, is the Sabbath Day. Why? (See Mark 16:1 and following verses, especially verse 6, for help)

Jesus uses this story to tell us that, more important than following special rules of rest, is to do activities that honor God. Read verse 28 again, what activities do we do on our day of rest that honor Jesus, who has said he is even the master of the Sabbath Day?

If your Sundays are usually filled with sports or business trips, what other day do you do particular activities that worship God and celebrate faith in Jesus Christ?

*praying
together*



Praying together as a family is a special time. Light a candle to remind you of the presence of God as you pray. Hold hands and stand in a circle together.

Pray together: O powerful Lord, thank you for giving us a day that we can rest and praise you. Help us to be refreshed in our faith this day. And help us in all we do, that we may do everything to honor you. Amen

Talk about friends or family who are sick or hurting. Ask God to help heal them, lift them up to God as the friends of the paralyzed man lifted him to Jesus.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Conclude your time by saying the Lord's Prayer.