**Learn in Community**

Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**How can I experience God’s power?**

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” ([John 14:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.12))

*When we think of power, we might think of physical strength or mental toughness. While God surely wants us to experience physical health and clarity of mind, He desires that we experience His supernatural power too.*

*In the Bible, it’s clear that our God—revealed through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—is powerful. He spoke the world into existence and sustains the universe by the power of His Word (*[*Hebrews 1:3*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb1.3)*). God displayed His power in many ways in the Old Testament for His people. In the New Testament, Jesus’ life and works revealed His power over sickness, spiritual forces, and even the grave. After Jesus’ resurrection, God sent the Holy Spirit so we could have the power to do kingdom work today (*[*Acts 1:8*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.8)*). Clearly, God is powerful! But how do you and I experience His power? That’s the question we’ll explore in this volume.*

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| First time leading *Learn* for Adults? Check out the [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever witnessed a miracle? If so, describe what happened. |

Our life experiences shape our ideas of what miracles look like. Your list of miracles might include little things like passing a test you didn’t study much for, finding extra French fries at the bottom of the bag, or getting a front-row parking spot at the grocery store. But God’s miracles can be much bigger than things you can attribute to random events or coincidence.

One purpose of miracles is to display God’s presence and His extraordinary power. He spoke the world into existence at creation. God didn’t stop there. Moses witnessed the Red Sea opening up so the Israelites could walk across on dry land. Joshua and the Israelites saw the walls of Jericho fall to the ground. A widow’s pot of oil stayed full until the empty containers were all filed. Daniel was kept safe in a den of lions. Three men were unharmed in a fiery furnace that killed the people who threw them in. The pages of the Bible are filled with numerous miracles spanning thousands of years.

However, miracles aren’t only in the Bible. Miracles are still happening today all around the world. God is still using miracles to show His power and introduce himself to people. You shouldn’t be surprised when God wants to perform miracles in your life. In fact, you should expect them to happen!

**Watch**

As we watch this video, think about your answer to this question: Is it easy for you to believe in miracles? Why or why not?



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| **QUESTION**Is it easy for you to believe in miracles? Why or why not? |

**Consider What the Bible Says**

This session’s Scripture portion is about a time in Israel’s history when the nation had been run by a string of evil kings. Each king had taken steps of disobedience to lead Israel farther and farther away from God. One of the main evil practices was allowing the worship of idols and other gods. This led to many turning to Baal worship.

Then God’s prophet Elijah entered the scene ([1 Kings 17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ki17)). Throughout the second half of [1 Kings](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ki), God empowered the prophet Elijah to declare His greatness and display His awe-inspiring miracles. Each miracle gave people the opportunity to turn their heart back to the one true God.

In today’s Bible reading, God used Elijah to make a bold statement to King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. As God’s devoted servant, Elijah announced there would be no rain until he said so. Can you imagine making that kind of announcement to a powerful leader? Can you imagine the trust Elijah must have had in God to stand up and declare something of that magnitude? Elijah boldly believed God for miracles.

**Believe Courageously for the Impossible**

Read [1 Kings 17:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ki17.1).

People believed Baal was a god who had authority over the sky and weather. Some even referred to him as the “Lord of Rain and Dew.” When Elijah obediently told King Ahab there would be no rain, he was declaring war. He was putting God’s power and authority on display for all to see. His declaration, partnered with God’s miracle, would make sure everyone understood that God, not Baal, controlled every drop of water gathering in the clouds and falling from the sky.

Just like Elijah, we may be called to proclaim God’s message to someone who might not want to hear it. We might be called to pray for God to meet an outrageous need. In those moments, we need God’s boldness to speak His Word and believe for miracles.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think so many people today don’t believe in miracles? |

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| **QUESTION**What impossible situation do you or someone you know need God to intervene in? |

**Believe in God’s Power and Obey His Direction**

Read [1 Kings 17:2–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ki17.2-4).

God has a plan for every situation. His plans and solutions might not always make sense to us. The truth is, the ravens could have fed Elijah anywhere, but God had a specific place He wanted Elijah to be. Sometimes God’s instructions may make sense to us, like God positioning Elijah near water in a time of drought. But other times His plans may be confusing, like waiting on wild birds to miraculously provide food. When we don’t understand, we have to remember that God’s ways and thoughts are higher than ours ([Isaiah 55:8–9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is55.8-9)).

Following God’s direction and instructions may not be easy and may stretch our faith. We can be confident that if we’re following the voice and plan of God, He will meet our needs—even if it doesn’t make sense at the time. When we’re obedient to His direction, we will no doubt see His miraculous power at work around us.

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| **QUESTION**When is the last time God asked you to do something you didn’t understand at the time? Did you do it? |

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| **QUESTION**What are you doing for God right now that is stretching your faith? |

**Believe and Trust God with the Results**

Read [1 Kings 17:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ki17.5-6).

Elijah had two responsibilities in this situation. His first responsibility was to declare God’s message to King Ahab. His second responsibility was to go to the Kerith Brook. He wasn’t responsible for holding back every drop of rain in the clouds. That was God’s responsibility. He wasn’t responsible for finding ravens and training them to deliver food. That was God’s responsibility.

When God calls us to speak for Him or to follow Him in a specific way, we can trust that He has all the details under control. After all, it’s His name on the line, not ours. God is faithful. If He makes a promise, you can be sure He will faithfully fulfill His promise.

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| **QUESTION**What might have happened if Elijah hadn’t moved to the Kerith Brook as God had instructed? |

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| **QUESTION**Elijah saw God miraculously use ravens to meet his need. How have you seen God supernaturally meet a need because of your obedient step of faith? |

**Did You Know?**

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| *The brook of Kerith has been identified as modern-day Wadi Al-Yabish in the region of biblical Gilead. This is the region that Elijah was from. The modern name of the brook preserves the biblical name of a nearby village—Jabesh-Gilead. It was here about two hundred years earlier that the city served as a battleground between the armies of the Ammonites and the kingdom of Saul. Saul saved the city’s residents from having their right eyes gouged out by the Ammonite king. As a result, following Saul’s death, the men of Jabesh-Gilead took the bodies of Saul and his son Jonathan and buried them under a tree next to the very same brook.* |

**Reflect**

**I Believe God for Miracles**

God can do anything. His power and resources are unlimited. There may be times in your life when God charges you to stand up, speak up, or step out. Whether His plan makes sense to you or not, it’s your responsibility to be obedient. Building an ark probably confused Noah, but it saved humanity ([Genesis 6–9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge6-9)). Striking a rock with a rod probably didn’t make sense to Moses, but water gushed out ([Numbers 20:1–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Nu20.1-11)). Throwing fishing nets back into the water after hours of not catching anything probably didn’t sound like good fishing advice to Peter, but he caught enough fish to nearly sink two boats ([Luke 5:4–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk5.4-7)). When you trust God and follow His direction, you can see His miracles.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we have read and shared. Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following questions. Respond to the one that most resonates with what God is saying to you now. Then complete the others during Day 1 of your devotion time this week.

**Personal Reflection Questions**

*Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.*

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| **QUESTION**What fears or doubts keep you from following God’s direction in your life? |

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| **QUESTION**What miracles are you currently praying for? What do you expect God to do as a result? |

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| **QUESTION**Is there someone in your life you have been hesitant to pray with who needs a miracle? Make a commitment to contact that person this week and pray for their situation. |

**Activate**

Miracles release God’s power and presence into the life of people who need Him most. To increase your faith in God’s ability to do miracles, start by seeing the people and opportunities surrounding you. It’s quite possible that you already have people in your life who need to experience a miracle-working God.

**Challenge**

Make a prayer list identifying five specific individuals in your life who need the following miracles. Then commit to pray for these individuals until they receive the miracle they need. Depending on your relationship with them, you might reach out to let them know they’re in your prayers.

1. Spiritual Miracle

Write the name of an individual in your life who needs to experience the greatest miracle of all—a life transformed by the power of Jesus Christ.

2. Physical Miracle

Write the name of an individual who needs a healing miracle in their body.

3. Financial Miracle

Write the name of an individual who needs a miracle in meeting an overwhelming financial need or debt.

4. Relational Miracle

Write the name of an individual who needs a miracle in a specific relationship (friendship, family relationship, work relationship, marriage, etc.).

5. Restoration Miracle

Write the name of an individual who needs God to miraculously put the pieces of their life back together. This individual might be a follower of Christ who is in the process of overcoming a broken past or addiction.

**Prayer Requests**

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| Note any requests from the group and remember to pray for them during the week. |

Before next time, continue to spend time in God’s Word with the personal devotions.

**What We Believe**

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| **Official Doctrine**After Pentecost “many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles” ([Acts 2:43](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac2.43), KJV). Luke wrote the Book of Acts as an extension of the story of what Jesus did and taught, not only through the apostles but through a Church filled with the Holy Spirit ([Acts 1:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.1), [8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.8); [2:4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac2.4)).The working of miracles, including divine healing, was not limited to the apostles. The promise of Jesus was to all believers ([John 14:12–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.12-14)) who would ask in His name (that is, those who recognize His authority and conform themselves to His nature and purposes). God used deacons such as Philip to preach and heal ([Acts 8:5–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac8.5-7)) and an otherwise unknown disciple, Ananias, to bring healing to Saul (Paul) ([Acts 9:12–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.12-18)). |

**Learn on Your Own**

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| *Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.* |

**Day 1: I Believe God for Miracles**

Read [1 Kings 17:1–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ki17.1-6).

Look back over Learn in Community and complete your responses to the Personal Reflection Questions. Plan how to complete the Activate component if you haven’t already done so. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

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| **QUESTION**What is God saying to you about believing for miracles? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 2: Miracles Are Acts of God’s Power**

Read [Psalm 77:1–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps77.1-15).

God uses His acts of power as a way of introducing himself to others. All through the Old and New Testament, we can find miracles that display God’s power. In today’s reading (verses [1–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps77.1-10)), the Psalmist was feeling hopeless until he remembered the miracles he had seen (verses [11–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps77.11-15)).

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| **QUESTION**What do the miracles of the Bible show you about God’s power? |

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| **QUESTION**List things the Lord has done for you in the past that can encourage you when you need a miracle today. |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 3: Miracles Are Acts of God’s Promise**

Read [John 14:11–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.11-14).

Miracles aren’t limited to the pages of the Bible. Miracles are for today and continue to be part of God’s plan to meet people’s needs and show himself to them. Jesus revealed that if we’re to expect miracles in our life, we need to activate our trust in Him through asking and believing. Those who trust God are promised to see His great works.

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| **QUESTION**Challenge yourself to memorize [John 14:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.12) this week. As you learn it, ask God to increase your faith and to give you courage. |

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| **QUESTION**Jesus explained that we have the opportunity to see even greater works than those He did. How does this statement shape your faith? What miracles are you challenged to start believing for? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 4: Miracles Can Be Acts of God’s People**

Read [Acts 14:1–3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac14.1-3).

Every miracle is an act of God. He continually acts through the obedience of His people. Noah obediently built the ark. Moses obediently stretched his rod out over the Red Sea. Joshua and the Israelites obediently walked around the walls of Jericho. Elijah obediently spoke a drought into existence.

As you turn your heart and mind to God, He will use you to display His power and presence in the world too. God wants to use you to meet others’ needs. God wants to use you to speak up and share His life-changing message. God wants to use you to pray for someone’s needs, so He can answer your prayer in a miraculous way. God is waiting to partner His miracles with your faith and obedience.

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| **QUESTION**Take a moment and reflect on your current prayer life. Do your prayers confidently invite God to perform miracles? |

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| **QUESTION**Is there an area of your life (work, family, church, etc.) where you are being challenged to speak up for Him? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 5: Miracles Are Acts of God’s Presence**

Read [Daniel 3:19–30](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Da3.19-30).

Miracles show us that God is on the scene and actively at work. In today’s passage, three men stood up for God even though the cost was being thrown into a fiery furnace. Miraculously, not only were the three men kept safe in the blazing fire, but the passage declares that onlookers could see a fourth man standing with them ([Daniel 3:25](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Da3.25)). Similarly, every miracle we experience is God personally stepping into the situation and taking care of it.

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| **QUESTION**How have you seen God personally step into a situation to meet an impossible need? |

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| **QUESTION**How do you currently see God involved in a situation in your life? |