**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))

*For this volume, we’ll focus on God’s power. More specifically, we’ll ask and address the question: How can I experience God’s power in my life? Even a skim through the Bible reveals that God expresses His power in many ways. From Genesis to Revelation, the entire Bible is filled with accounts of impossible things becoming possible with God. And God’s power continues in believers’ lives today. We can experience miracles, have bold faith, believe for healing, and know God answers our prayers.*

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Ten or more unusual-tasting food items (e.g., canned meats, nuts, condiments, cereals, jellies, baby foods, candies, fruit, cheeses)* *• Three paper plates* *• Three plastic spoons, if needed, for tasting items* *• Three bottles of water, one per game participant* *• Three blindfolds* *• Gift card or small prize* *• Table* *• Three chairs****Getting Ready*** *• Prepare to serve the food items in bite-size portions with the plates and spoons.* *• Set up the table and chairs at the front of the meeting area.* *• First time leading* Learn *for Youth? Look here for 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**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming. Your friendliness here can create comfort levels that encourage student participation later.*

Today, we’ll consider how we can experience God’s power through miracles. A miracle is an extraordinary event that can only happen through the power of God. You and I can’t make miracles happen whenever we want, but thankfully God can.

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| **QUESTION**Have any of you ever witnessed a miracle? Tell us a little about it. |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Thank God for any miracles that were mentioned. Thank Him for being a miracle worker. Ask Him to enlarge the students’ faith to believe for miracles as you study God’s Word together.*

**Introduction**

The Bible tells us that God has performed countless miracles. Because of His Word, I believe He still does miracles today. We’re going to discuss a miracle God did in the Old Testament and look at ways it can enlarge our faith in God to believe for miracles in our life today. But first, let’s have a little bit of fun with an activity.

**Group Activity**

**Taste Testers**

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Ten or more unusual-tasting food items (e.g., canned meats, nuts, condiments, cereals, jellies, baby foods, candies, fruit, cheeses)* *• Three paper plates* *• Three plastic spoons, if needed, for tasting items* *• Three bottles of water, one per game participant* *• Three blindfolds* *• Small prize for a winner* *• Table* *• Three chairs****Getting Ready*** *• Prepare to serve the food items in bite-size portions with the plates and spoons.* *• Set up the table and chairs at the front of the meeting area.* |

Sometimes following God involves obedience without knowing everything that’s going to happen. For our group activity today, I’m going to need three brave volunteers and three servers.

• *Choose the participants.*

• *Be sure to check for food allergies before playing the game.*

Our brave volunteers are going to be blindfolded. One at a time, our blindfolded taste testers will be given a bite of some kind of food to eat. They can’t touch the food, only taste it. Then they’ll announce to the group what they think the food item is. If they get it correct, they score a point. If they guess incorrectly, the next taster will have a chance to steal the point. The individual with the most correct answers wins.

• *Blindfold the taste testers.*

• *Let the servers give bites of food to the testers, one at a time. Start each food round with a different tester, so each has an equal chance to earn or steal points.*

• *Continue playing until there is no more food to taste.*

• *Let volunteers return to their seats.*

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| **QUESTION**(To the taste testers) How was this different from eating something you could see? |

Much like our activity, we don’t always know what’s next in life—even when we’re faithfully following God. There are times when God gives us instructions and wants our obedience, but He doesn’t give us every detail of the journey. These moments when we respond to Him with faith and obedience are when He most often responds with miracles. We’ll look at that more closely, but first, let’s watch this video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

Believing for miracles starts with recognizing that God can do what seems impossible in people’s lives. For many people, their understanding of miracles began with accounts in the Bible.

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| **QUESTION**What are some miracles you’ve read or heard about from the Bible? |

God has done many miracles in people’s lives. Together, we’re going to discuss a miracle God did for an Old Testament prophet named Elijah. You might remember when he challenged the prophets of Baal to prove our God is greater than theirs. Today, we’ll explore a miracle Elijah experienced before that as we focus on believing God for miracles.

**Believe Courageously for the Impossible**

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

King Ahab was a wicked king of Israel. He worshipped idols and fake gods. Worse yet, he pulled people away from worshipping the one true God. The Bible even goes as far as to say that Ahab was even more evil than the kings who reigned before him ([1 Kings 16:30](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ki16.30)). This is the person the prophet Elijah addressed in the verse we just read. Later in the Bible, we learn that King Ahab grew to hate Elijah.

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| **QUESTION**How do you think Elijah felt when he made this statement to Ahab? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**How do you imagine Ahab reacted to Elijah’s proclamation? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever given someone some pretty bad news? Tell us about it. |

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| **QUESTION**What do you believe gave Elijah the courage to make such a daring declaration? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever asked God for something that seemed impossible? Tell us about it. |

Imagine going to a powerful government leader, or even a school principal, with a strong message about what God will do. Elijah’s action shows us a great example of courageously believing that God can do miracles. That isn’t easy to do. Let’s look at what happened next.

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

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

Following the bold words of Elijah, God directed him to a place of safety away from Ahab.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think God told Elijah to hide by a brook? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you think Elijah was glad he could go and hide? Why or why not? |

God always has a plan to care for His people. Even when we don’t understand His instructions, we need to trust that He has our well-being in mind.

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| **QUESTION**What can we learn from God’s command for Elijah to eat what the ravens brought to him? |

God knew that Elijah’s prophecy about the rain would anger Ahab. God wanted Elijah in a place where he was protected, and God met his needs while he was there waiting.

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| **QUESTION**Why is it important for us to obey God, even when we don’t understand? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever followed God’s direction in something and you didn’t understand at the time? Please share with us. |

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| **QUESTION**When someone obeys God, what does that say about their belief in Him? |

Obedience communicates that we believe in God’s power and we trust Him. Our following Him is more important than potential criticism from others.

**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. |

**Believe and Trust God with the Outcome**

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

Elijah’s obedience implies that he trusted God with the outcome. Our responsibility is obedience. God’s responsibility is the results.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think God has us wait on Him to do things at times? |

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| **QUESTION**What are some ways we can learn to trust God more? |

Waiting can test our trust in God. It’s easy to give up hope when it feels like the answer isn’t coming. But it’s through waiting and seeing His answer that our trust in Him grows. Often these opportunities to grow come in our learning to listen to and obey Him each day. As we see God do things in our daily life, our trust in Him grows.

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| **QUESTION**What’s the potential danger of getting everything we want from God right away? |

It’s not clear how long it took for God to respond to Elijah’s declaration to Ahab, but we know that God answered! We learn in [2 Kings 18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki18), the next chapter, that there was a drought, and it lasted three years. Elijah trusted in God, and God responded with the miracle.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever had to wait and trust God with the outcome in a situation? Can you tell us a little about it? |

**Reflect**

**I Believe for Miracles**

From this passage, it’s possible to identify some key elements of experiencing miracles. First, we must have the courage to believe the impossible is possible through God. Then we’re tasked with walking in obedience and honoring His commands. Once we have obeyed courageously, the next step is simply to trust God with the results. The outcome is in His hands. Only God can do the miracle.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in the Bible. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

• *Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and pause to pray for students as needed.*

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| **QUESTION**Is God asking you to obey Him and trust that He will answer? What may be keeping you from obeying Him? |

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| **QUESTION**Are there any areas of your life where you need a miracle from God? What are they? |

**Activate**

With the help of the Holy Spirit, it’s time to live out what we say we believe. It’s time to trust God for miracles.

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| **QUESTION**What are some steps of obedience you need to take that could open up opportunities for miracles in your life? |

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*We would all love to see sick people healed, needs met, addiction broken, and pain stopped. However, the greatest miracle is when someone chooses to follow Jesus. Everyone who is saved is a miracle. Before we can believe for other miracles, we have to believe in the ultimate miracle: Jesus cleanses us of our sin and fills us with His life.**Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Conclusion**

Today was the first step in a journey toward experiencing God’s power. We live in a world that is broken and full of needs. Everywhere we look, there are opportunities for God to do a miracle. We have the privilege of being active participants in miracles. To go on this journey, we have to believe God is who the Bible reveals Him to be. The more we understand God and His nature, attributes like courage, trust, and obedience increasingly become part of our life. Those attributes position us to experience His miracles.

**Prayer**

Father, You did many miracles that we can read about in the Bible. We believe You are powerful and that You move in people’s lives today, too. We know You can change situations. We want to experience Your power. We believe you can heal the sick and set people free from sin. Our trust is in You to provide for us when we’re in need. We would love to be a part of Your work in the world. Please help us to believe for miracles. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Thanks for learning about experiencing God’s power with me. Be sure to engage with the personal devotions this week. Next time we’ll look at how God can give us bold faith.