

Miracles: Signs Jesus Worked

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 11*.

❖ A miracle is a phenomenon that seems to have no natural cause and can be explained only as a direct intervention of God. Jesus worked miracles in order to benefit those who were suffering, but the miracles were also signs that the kingdom he proclaimed is among us. He also used miracles as a way to teach truths about himself, the kingdom, and its members.

PAGE 87

❖ Pain, weakness, suffering, and death are the result of the original sin each person has carried throughout human history. Jesus, who has power over nature, sin, sickness, Satan, and death, came to earth to free us from bondage to sin.

PAGE 87

❖ Jesus used miracles to teach. By healing on the Sabbath and touching unclean people, he showed that God's law of love surpasses all human law.

PAGE 88

❖ Miracles teach the importance of faith, but where the people did not have faith already, Jesus did not work miracles.

PAGE 88

❖ Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at a wedding. Mary asked him to help. The story teaches us that providing in abundance is a sign of God's presence. You can read the story in John 2:1–12.

PAGE 88

❖ The paralyzed man's friends loved the man and had powerful faith in Jesus. They lowered their friend through the roof of a home where Jesus was teaching to a large crowd. Jesus healed the man by telling him his sins were forgiven. This act horrified religious leaders but showed Jesus has power over sin. Read the full story in Mark 2:1–12.

PAGE 89

❖ Jesus was asleep on a boat when a storm threatened to tip the boat. Jesus woke and stilled the storm, disappointed by his disciples' lack of faith. Read the full story in Mark 4:35–41.

PAGE 89

❖ Compassion is sympathy for people who are suffering and a desire to reduce or relieve their pain. Jesus showed limitless compassion for people who were poor, sick, sinners, or suffering. Compassion moved him to work many of his miracles.

PAGE 90

❖ The Gospel of Matthew tells us that faith the size of a mustard seed will allow us to move mountains. Faith is needed for miracles to happen. See Matthew 17:20.

PAGE 91

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