**1. Motivate**

What is one of your favorite stories to tell about something hard to believe?

* Who won the ballgame after being far behind
* what the neighbors are up to
* what the dog/cat/pet did
* guess who’s coming to dinner
* the person who you thought would die, got better
* you missed crashing into someone by inches
* guess who/what I saw today
* someone sent us money

A video introduction to the Bible Study is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_j5v4k45t> . If you have no wi-fi, it is best to download the video to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/ysmnjhd5>

* won the lottery
* my infection went away

**2. Transition**

Sometimes God does something in our lives that is hard to believe.

* Miracles we read of in the Gospels, point to Jesus as God’s chosen Messiah.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Miracles Point to the Messiah

Listen for evidence of doubt.

John 10:22-26 (NIV) Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. 24 The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

Note the setting for these verses and to whom is Jesus talking.

* During the Feast of Dedication – celebration of the rebuilding of the Temple
* It was winter
* Jesus is in the temple area, Solomon’s colonnade
* Speaking to Jewish leaders

What was the question posed to Him; what did the Jews want to know?

* how long will you keep us in suspense
* tell us yes or no … are you the Christ, the Messiah

How did Jesus answer them? What two ways had Jesus sought to reveal who He was?

* I’ve already told you
* but you didn’t believe
* you’ve seen the miracles … that should be enough

Why did they reject Him?

* they didn’t believe in what He said or did
* they didn’t believe in who He claimed to be
* they rejected Him because He claimed to be the Son of God
* they refused to accept that He was the Christ, Messiah
* He didn’t fit what/who they expected the Messiah to be

What can we learn about Jesus by looking at His miracles?

* His power and authority
* His love and compassion
* they prove who He was/is
* we should have the same compassion
* we can depend on Him to work miracles in our lives

Why do some people find Jesus's miracles hard to believe?

* same as the Jewish leaders … cannot accept who He claims to be
* think there’s no such things as miracles
* everything must be explained rationally, logically, scientifically
* reports of miracles in Scripture are just stories, believed by gullible primitives

Jesus said these Jewish leaders were “not my sheep.” What is true about those who *are* the “sheep” of Jesus?

* they hear Jesus’ voice
* Jesus knows them
* they follow Jesus

How can you learn to better hear Jesus’ voice and be one of Jesus’ “sheep”?

* daily reading God’s Word
* carefully thinking about what God has done, what God has said
* applying what you read to your life
* talk to God … be honest with Him about your doubts, fears, needs
* praise God for what He has done
* worship, be in awe of Him for who He is, for His attributes

3.2 Miracles Point to Jesus’ Divinity

Listen for a question of clarity.

John 14:8-11 (NIV) 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

Note the setting for these verses.

* Disciples are gathered together
* Jesus is explaining why he will be leaving them
* Mentions going to the Father
* Phillip asks “Show us the Father”

Why did Jesus seem surprised Philip felt a need for such a request?

* you have seen *me*
* you’ve been with *me* for a long time
* if you’ve seen *me*, you have seen *The Father*
* I am in the Father, the Father is in me
* everything I say to you are not just my own

What kinds of things had Philip already seen that demonstrated the Father at work through Jesus?

* miracles
* healing
* feeding of large groups
* compassion for individuals and large groups
* fearlessness in confronting religious fakes

What obstacles prevent many from accepting the truth of who Jesus is?

* don’t want to obey God’s commands
* don’t want to admit being a sinner
* don’t want to change a way of life
* don’t want to give up who you are
* want to control your own life, not surrender to Jesus as Lord

Jesus appealed to His miracles as proof of His oneness with the Father. Why, how are they proof?

* the miracles are evidence that it is God who is doing the work
* they are actions that are outside the natural laws of nature
* they are *super*natural
* healings, water to wine, demons cast out, storms calmed, small lunch multiplied

3.3 Jesus Continues to Work Miraculously

Listen for an amazing promise.

John 14:12-14 (NIV) I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

What is the unusual promise of Jesus in verse 12?

* you have seen my actions, my miracles
* if you have faith in me … then you can/will do *even greater* things than these

How is it that we can do even greater works than Jesus did?

* Because He was going to the Father.
* Jesus as a human was limited by time and space …
* When the Holy Spirit came He would be omnipresent
* God’s power now dwells in every believer
* It will still be God’s power at work, doing miracles

Jesus states that He will do whatever we ask. What are the qualifying statements concerning the effectiveness of our praying and Jesus’s work through us?

* whatever you ask (stated twice)

This philosophy wants to make God “dance” to our attempts to manipulate the spiritual laws of the universe

* ask in My name … in my authority
* ask so the Son may bring glory to the Father
* must ask within the will of God

Consider the “name it and claim it” prayer philosophy sometimes based on this verse

Motivated by greed

You too can drive a BMW if you have enough faith

You’ll never be sick again if you have enough faith

Words are said to have power Thus if you need something, simply speak it into existence (just like God created the earth).

So, what does it mean to pray “in Jesus name”?

* more than starting a prayer with “Dear Jesus …”
* more than ending a prayer with “ … In Jesus Name, Amen”
* it means we come before God with the authorization, the authority of the Name of Jesus
* we come as His representative
* we come asking for things that *He would want*
* we come making requests that *are according to His will*

Assuming one has a relationship with Jesus, what might be examples of prayers where we *are* acting as Jesus’ representative and asking for God’s will?

* for salvation of a relative or acquaintance
* prayer for government leaders
* prayer for “daily bread” (which could include health, safety, wisdom, etc.)
* prayer for restored relationships
* prayer for the outreach of the church
* prayer for God’s power at work as the Gospel is preached around the world

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Confront doubt.

* If you struggle with believing miracles are possible, consider what your doubts might say about your belief in God.
* Be willing to trust that the all-powerful God is capable of doing the miraculous and things we cannot explain.

Embrace the miracle in your life.

* The greatest miracle God performs is the spiritual transformation He carries out through Christ in the lives of those who put their faith in Him.
* Trust Christ and let Him work the miracle of making you a new person.

Share the miracle.

* Let people see the miraculous work God has done in your life and be prepared to share that miracle with them.
* “But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Pet. 3:15).

Fallen Phrases Puzzle

Can you believe it? An earthquake shook many of the letters off the message board. Luckily, they fell straight down. I think you should start with the columns with one or two letters and also the two or three letter words. Place the letters where they seem to make a sensible word. The message has to do with “MIRACLES” so that’s a clue. Help and further Fun Family Activities are available at <https://tinyurl.com/ysmnjhd5>