

MIRACLES OF JESUS

A STUDY OF WHAT JESUS
MAKES POSSIBLE

LEADER'S GUIDE

How to Study MIRACLES OF JESUS

We are so glad you picked up this study! This seven-week study guide was created for you to use on your own or in a group. Throughout the study, you will find reflection questions for your own personal time of study and you will find group questions as well. Use these questions to facilitate conversation within your small group and dig deeper into each week's topic.

STUDY COMPONENTS:

- 1. The book (or web page):** This is where you will find the daily reading and reflection questions. This can all be found in two places:
 - In the study book. This is the most effective format for groups. If you need a copy, head to shoppe.ifgathering.com
 - ifequip.com. This is our web-based version of the study. Each devotional is added daily. If you access the study through this site, your group members will need to keep journals to write down their answers each day, so they can refer to them during group discussion.
- 2. Videos:** The videos are a tool to help unpack the weekly topic of the study. Watch the video at the start of each week and discuss them as a small group before diving into the daily reading.

TYPICAL WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

- 1.** Get together with your group and briefly discuss what you learned from the prior week.
- 2.** Watch the weekly video together.
- 3.** Go over the discussion questions with your group.
- 4.** Go home and do the week's reading and questions on your own (there are five days of content for each week).

How to Study
MIRACLES OF JESUS CONTINUED...

HOW TO ACCESS THE WEEKLY VIDEOS:

Watch on RightNow Media.

1. Log in to your RightNow Media account and search “IF:Gathering” to find the *Miracles of Jesus* video series.
2. If you do not have a RightNow Media account, go to rightnowmedia.org/ifgathering to access the videos for free through an exclusive RightNow Media and IF:Gathering resource library. After creating an account, log in and search “Miracles of Jesus” to watch the series.

Watch on ifequip.com.





SERIES OVERVIEW

Miracles of Jesus explores all four Gospels with teaching from Jennie Allen, Bianca Juárez Olthoff, Jada Edwards, and Sadie Robertson. Discover the ways Jesus healed, provided for, calmed, and resurrected the people he encountered. This seven-session study is about believing in the power of God who can accomplish anything. There's nothing too big or too small for us to bring to him.

When we take time to learn about the overflowing kindness Jesus demonstrated to all kinds of people through miracles during his time on earth, we realize that he is radically generous, compassionate, and honoring toward all people. As you watch teaching from the places in Israel where Jesus performed miracles and dig into God's Word, you will end the study in awe of the Messiah who relentlessly seeks, saves, and restores us.

WATCH SESSION 1:
JESUS RESPONDS TO OUR NEEDS
(7 MINS)



WEEK ONE



REVIEW

In the video, Bianca reminded us that miracles are proof that Jesus came to give us salvation and forgiveness and then Jesus goes above and beyond with the lavishness of healing and miracles. How would you answer the question that Bianca posed—what are the miracles you are asking God for in your life currently?

Jennie, Bianca, Jada, and Sadie all remarked how amazing it was to be in Capernaum—the place where Jesus performed so many miracles. What do you think your faith would look like if you actually saw Jesus perform miracles? In what ways do you take for granted what Jesus has done in your life today?



DIG IN

Read Matthew 8:14–17. What does this passage say about Jesus’s ability to do the impossible or care about the tiny details in our lives?

What does Jesus’s interaction with Peter’s mother-in-law tell us about his character and how he responds to our need? When have you seen that aspect of Jesus’s character in your own life?

What is something in your life that you believe is too big for God to move or too small for him to care about?

Consider memorizing Matthew 8:17 this week to help remind you of his character.

WEEK ONE CONTINUED...



MAKE IT MATTER

Sometimes in our need it's easy to feel like we're alone. When do you feel most isolated from God? When do you feel most isolated from others? What triggers your feelings of isolation?

What does it look like for you to purposefully press in toward Jesus during those moments of isolation?

What could your small group do to come alongside you right now?



REFLECT

There are people in your community who feel isolated right now. How can you embody Jesus's tenderness and closeness to someone who is hurting this week? Consider serving someone in your small group or community who may feel isolated—take her out to coffee, send her prayers and encouragement in texts or notes, or meet a physical need to show you care.

In the video, Jennie taught us that God desires to meet us in our need however big or small. She challenged us to ask God to meet us exactly where we are, filling the crevices that are too big or the cracks that go unnoticed. Ask God to show you these places and to meet you here. What does dependence on God look like in these areas? Ask him to meet you in this place of need.



REWIND AND REFLECT

Which attributes of Jesus stood out to you as you read through week one's study? Were there some aspects of Jesus you needed to be reminded of? Were there some aspects of Jesus that troubled you?

Refer back to some of the encounters in Scripture you read this week. What are the different types of need Jesus is responding to? What do these passages tell us about how Jesus cares for our need?

Week two is about the real-life storms, or trials, that happen in our lives and how Jesus can calm those storms with his power and presence.

WATCH SESSION 2:
JESUS CALMS OUR STORMS (9 MINS)



WEEK TWO



REVIEW

In the video, Jennie, Bianca, Jada, and Sadie shared their personal struggles with doubt and turmoil. What encouraged you from their conversation?

What trials, or storms, are happening in your life? In what ways do you see God shaping your faith through this hardship?

Sadie reminds us from Psalm 139 that the same God who has authority over all creation is the same God who created us and knows us. What does this truth mean for the fear and chaos that we face? What impact could believing that truth have on our lives?



DIG IN

Read Psalm 104:3, 107:23–30, and 135:7. Who rescues us from watery dangers? What parallels do you see between the psalms and the miracles Sadie taught about in the video? What do they reveal about Jesus's deity?

Read Matthew 8:23–27. What are the reactions and feelings of the disciples? In what ways do you relate to chaos similarly or differently? What is Jesus's response in the midst of chaos?

WEEK TWO CONTINUED...



MAKE IT MATTER

Bianca talked about what the Sea of Galilee looks like during a storm. What can we learn and take away from Jesus's power over nature? What does this say about his character and abilities for the figurative storms in your own life?

What would you do to comfort a friend with the knowledge of God's nearness in life's storms? What would you do to comfort yourself?



REFLECT

Write a letter to a friend who is in the midst of trials. Remind her that God promises his presence during hardship. Make a list of ways you have felt and known the nearness of God in your own life.

“Remind her that God promises his presence during hardship.”



REWIND AND REFLECT

What recurring themes do you see surrounding the miracles that you read about in this week's study? Which miracle did you find most comforting? What stood out to you most about Jesus?

In what ways does Jesus's compassion to all people—even his enemies—influence the way you think about people around you?

Week three is about the peace that Jesus brings us through his presence in our lives in all situations.

WATCH SESSION 3:
JESUS OFFERS PEACE (9 MINS)



WEEK THREE



REVIEW

In the video, Jada said, “You can’t appreciate the healing and the grace until you understand the depth of the darkness.” In what ways have you experienced this in your life?



DIG IN

Read Mark 5:1–13. In the video, Bianca noted that Jesus sees this man as a child of God and not as everything else that defined him in that society. She asked us, “What is the thing that has overwhelmed, controlled, and defined you?” In what ways does knowing you are made in the image of God change how you view yourself?

Bianca mentioned that when we are freed from bondage, we can easily forget that we are also free to live. She challenged us to think about what we’re freed *from*, but not forget to think about what we’re freed *to*. Make a side-by-side list of what you’re freed from, and now, in light of Jesus, how you’re freed to live going forward and share one with the group.

WEEK THREE CONTINUED...



MAKE IT MATTER

In the video, the group discussed the power of healing for everything from unforgiveness, to bitterness, addiction, and depression. In light of that conversation, what is an area of your life where you desire healing? What are the fears that come up for you? What hope you see in this area?



REFLECT

Brainstorm activities that help point you to Jesus when your mind feels out of control. This may vary from person to person but could include turning off the TV and taking a walk in nature, journaling a prayer, turning to a favorite Scripture passage, etc. After you've compiled your list, narrow it down to the top three ideas.

“You can’t appreciate the healing and grace until you understand the depth of darkness.”



REWIND AND REFLECT

Which miracle stood out to you in week three's study? Why did it stand out to you? What did you learn from studying it?

Read Matthew 11:28–30. In what ways did last week's study relate to finding rest for our souls?

Week four is about waiting for God's intervention, even when the situation seems impossible.

WATCH SESSION 4:
JESUS INTERVENES IN THE IMPOSSIBLE
(9 MINS)



WEEK FOUR



REVIEW

In the video, Jennie, Bianca, Jada, and Sadie talked near the Pool of Bethesda about the hopelessness we can feel while waiting for God to intervene. When have you lost hope?

Jada taught us about Jesus's mercy as he encounters a man who been waiting for healing for thirty-eight years. When have you had to wait for God to intervene in your life? What kept you hopeful during that time? What did God teach you as you waited?



DIG IN

Read Isaiah 52–53. What does this passage tell us about the mission Jesus came to accomplish?



MAKE IT MATTER

Jada talked about God using afflictions for his glory. What good have you seen come from your own past afflictions?

WEEK FOUR CONTINUED...

It can be easy to read (or hear) about how Jesus worked (or works) in other people's lives but more difficult to remember he also moves in our lives. In what ways do you see God working in your life?



REFLECT

In what ways could your life reflect a belief that Jesus has come to bring us rest?

Jada encouraged us to not compare or compete with how God might be working in the lives of those around us. In what ways is that concept a challenge for you? What can you do this week to not let comparison or competition steal the joy from how God might be wanting to meet you and work in you?

“When have you had to wait for God to intervene in your life? What kept you hopeful during that time? What did God teach you as you waited?”



REWIND AND REFLECT

Think through the readings from week four. What themes stand out to you? What seems significant about those themes?

In what ways did the day-to-day readings connect? What did these miracles reveal to you about Jesus's character? What difference does it make in your faith to know that about Jesus?

Week five is about how we can trust in God's provision every day because we know Jesus sees and cares about our physical and spiritual hunger.

WATCH SESSION 5:
JESUS KNOWS OUR HUNGER (8 MINS)



WEEK FIVE



REVIEW

In the video, Jennie, Bianca, Jada, and Sadie commented that the feeding of the five thousand occurred right after John the Baptist was beheaded. What resonated with you in their conversation? What points did they make that stood out to you?

When have you been asked to go above and beyond to serve others when you felt like you had nothing more to give? What did you get through it? Where did you go for strength?



DIG IN

Read John 6:1–14. Jennie used this passage to teach about God’s provision. What does this miracle teach us, not only about God’s provision, but God’s ultimate goal in meeting both our physical and spiritual hunger?



MAKE IT MATTER

In the teaching video, Jennie offers the wisdom that there is joy in dependence as we trust in the exceeding abundance of God. How have you experienced this

WEEK FIVE CONTINUED...

in your life? In what area of your life are you currently living on your own ways and your own strength? What does trust and dependence on God look like for you, right now?

What things do you normally use to “nourish” you? How can these stories be a reminder to you that Jesus provides for your needs? Who in your life needs this encouragement?



REFLECT

Jesus wants us to partner with him in ministering to others through his provision and power. Look up a local food shelter or other place to minister. Carve out some time to minister to others both physically and with the ultimate nourishment of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Reflecting on Jennie’s teaching in the video on Jesus feeding the five thousand, what area in your life do you need a “fishes and loaves” miracle? As a group, commit to praying for each other this week.

***“There is joy in dependence as we trust
in the exceeding abundance of God.”***



REWIND AND REFLECT

What recurring themes do you see in the miracle accounts from this week five's study? What surprised you about Jesus's actions or words? Which story impacted you most?

Refer back to some of the encounters in Scripture you read this week. What did Jesus do to respond to those needs? In what could Jesus's response to people's needs influence the way you treat the people in your life?

Week six is about how Jesus's resurrection has not only conquered death, but has also changed our lives for eternity.

WATCH SESSION 6:
JESUS CONQUERS DEATH (14 MINS)



WEEK SIX



REVIEW

In the video, the group reflected on the truth that Jesus chose obedience to the Father even in facing great pain and betrayal. What does that say about where Jesus's confidence comes from? What is one encouragement you could take away from his example?



DIG IN

In the video, Sadie referenced Galatians 6:2 and 1 John 3:16. What do we learn about Jesus's example of love? In what ways have others loved you? In what way might God be asking you to love others?

Look at 1 Corinthians 15:1–11. What message did the apostle Paul preach? In what ways does the message of the resurrection apply to our lives today?



MAKE IT MATTER

In the video, the group reflected on how Christ's sacrifice and resurrection changed their lives. If Christ is resurrected, what difference does that make in your life? If there were no empty tomb, how would your life be different?

WEEK SIX CONTINUED...

Bianca referred to 1 Corinthians 15:55 to show not only God's great love for us, but also his power over death. She also referred to Acts 2:1–4 to remind us that God did not leave us alone on this earth but provided the Holy Spirit, alive in every Christ follower. What does that mean to you? How are you relying on God's power?



REFLECT

Read Romans 8:11, 31–32. What are some circumstances in your life that currently feel hopeless and impossible to change?

In the video, Bianca reminded us that Jesus's death and resurrection show that we are worth dying for and therefore Jesus is worth living for. Reflect on the truth that the same God who raised Jesus from the dead will withhold no good thing from his followers.

***“Jesus’s death and resurrection show
that we are worth dying for and therefore
Jesus is worth living for.”***



REWIND AND REFLECT

Week six's study explored Jesus's power over death. As you read through the miracles in this week's study, what stood out to you about both Jesus's and the disciples' response to death?

What Scripture passage encouraged you the most this week? What about Jesus's victory over death brings you hope in everyday life?

This final video session is about how Jesus's ascension gives us power and purpose in our lives.

WATCH SESSION 7:
JESUS EMPOWERS US (6 MINS)



WEEK SEVEN



REVIEW

What stood out to you about Jada, Jennie, Bianca, and Sadie's discussion about how the ascension changed everything for us?

Read Acts 1:1–11. What does the ascension tell us about Jesus? What does it tell us about his coming return? What does it mean for you?



DIG IN

Read Luke 24:49–52. What did Jesus's ascension give to us?

Jada reminded us in the video that Jesus told us it is better for him to leave and send us his Spirit (John 16:7–15). Why would Jesus say it's better for him to leave? In what ways does the gift of the Holy Spirit change the way you view your everyday life and faith?



MAKE IT MATTER

Jada taught us that because of Jesus's ascension, we now have access to the same power that raised him from the dead. In what ways does this truth impact



WEEK SEVEN CONTINUED...

the way you view yourself? How does it influence your purpose and mission in your everyday life?



REFLECT

Reflect back on your time in this study. What is one recurring theme that stuck out to you? What might God be saying to you in that? What is one shift or step you want to make in light of this truth?

We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the mission Jesus left of us: The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16–20). Pray for God to show you those in your life that need to hear this good news, and then go and tell them.



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