

WONDER

Week 7 - Is God Still Working Today?

"The greatest evidence of a miracle is the changed life that results when someone goes from non-belief to belief. Signs and wonders like those that Jesus did may be less frequent or demonstrable than they were in the past, but men and women from around the world testify that the miracle of belief continues around us every day." -Eric Metaxas

THE MAIN POINT

Over the past few weeks, we've examined the questions that skeptical students might have. In doing so, we've looked at truth, creation, the Bible, Jesus, and suffering. Most of these deal with things that happened and were recorded several thousand years ago. This leads us to the question: Is God still working today? It can seem to a student that the Bible records such phenomenal miracles but it doesn't seem like any of those things are happening now. This small group will challenge students to open their eyes and see that God is still doing amazing things. God is still at work changing lives.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- None

GETTING STARTED

It's been amazing spending these last few weeks with you exploring some incredibly difficult questions.

Discuss: What has been the highlight of our conversations so far?

As a reminder for the last time, here are some really important rules for our group:

RULES FOR SMALL GROUP:

Commitment - Commit to being at every group meeting (make it a priority!)

Confidentiality - What is shared here stays here.

Be honest or be silent - don't make up an answer just to have one. Sometimes the most honest answer is no answer, so if you need to, just say pass.

Respect - for one another, their thoughts/ideas/opinions (no put downs).

ACTIVITY

Note: This will take some advance prep. The best evidence that God is still at work right now are the lives He's changed. Invite 1 or 2 people to join your group this week who have experienced real life change as a result of placing their faith and trust in Jesus. Think about a past Campus Life student, someone from your church, or a friend. Having someone outside of your group will give them multiple perspectives not just yours. Make sure you prepare your speakers ahead of time to share.

Have them share their story. Allow students to ask them questions.

GOING DEEPER

Wow those stories were awesome. Let's thank them for sharing!

Sometimes it's easy to look at the amazing miracles written in the Bible and wonder why none of those things happen today.

- Have you ever thought about that? Why do you think that we don't see those things happening today?

There's this scene at the end of the old "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" cartoon movie where

(SPOILER ALERT) the Grinch is on his way out of town with all of the stolen Christmas presents and decorations. He stops to listen for the cries and sadness from all of the Who's down in Who Ville. Instead, he hears them singing joyfully. The Grinch realizes that Christmas "doesn't come from a store." Because of this, his perspective totally changes. Sometimes we don't see things not because they aren't there, but because we need to change our perspective. When it comes to looking for God at work today, it takes a willingness to open our eyes and a willingness to listen. The stories you heard just a moment ago aren't the only ones. There are billions of stories just like it.

- What could changing your perspective look like?

In the book of John, Jesus heals a man that was born blind. The problem was there were a lot of people who simply didn't believe that it happened. The people in charge eventually called him in for questioning and even went after his parents! In the end, they couldn't deny that a man who once was blind could now see. Jesus ends up calling the people in charge blind. Why? Because they couldn't see what amazing things He was doing right in front of their eyes. They had the wrong perspective.

- Just like people doubted the story of the man born blind, how can people doubt the stories of all the people today whose lives have been changed by God? Are all these people fake?
- Have you seen God work in your life or in someone you know? How?

As we said a few weeks ago, when we say "yes" to following Jesus, it means we put our whole trust in Him. When we do that, He promises us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God and He makes His home in our hearts. When Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit, He called Him an Advocate. This basically means that God has your back. He doesn't leave us alone. He goes with us. How cool is that? He also said that the Holy Spirit would teach us and remind us of the things God wants for our lives (from John 14:23-26). This is God at work right now every day in so many lives including mine. *Share a personal story about the Holy Spirit in your life.*

- I know that can be a little confusing, so don't be afraid to ask.... what questions do you have about that?

TAKE AWAY

As we leave today, let's change our perspectives. I know our group is ending this week, but let's start a group text. Whenever one of us sees an example of God working in someone's life or in your life, let's text it to the group.

Thank you so much for being willing to dive in to these conversations over the last few weeks and for being adventurous thinkers.

FOLLOW UP

This series has brought up a lot of tough questions. A lot of students probably have questions that they might not have been willing to ask in the group. Following up with each of the students one-on-one at the end of this series for an appointment would be a great opportunity to hear those questions and continue the dialogue.