



UNIT 8 | SESSION 4

# **GOD'S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS**

**MARK 16**

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Psalm 77:14

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**

Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and miraculously raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God and salvation is found in Him.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

The Bible is a supernatural book filled with accounts of supernatural events. Dozens of miracles are recorded in the Bible. Each miracle points to a greater reality and reveals to us what God is like.

In the story of Israel's crossing the Jordan, we see how God hears our cries and provides for us in miraculous ways. Throughout Israel's history, we see miracles that reveal the kind of God we serve: a God who is close; a God who sees, hears, and acts.

In his book *Miracles*, C.S. Lewis said, "The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares the way for this, or results from this."

All of Scripture reveals the kind of God who comes close, who miraculously took on flesh and lived a perfect life among us. God the Son died in our place and rose from the dead. In His death, He conquered both sin and death. He came back to life and ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He lives to make intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25) We should be moved when we consider that not only do we have a God who hears us, but who sees us, lived among us, and lives to make intercession for us.

Through the miracle of Christ's finished work, we can be forgiven and reconciled

to God. We who were far off and without hope in this life have hope because of the miraculous birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

As you prepare to teach, pray and ask the God of miracles to move in the hearts of your kids as they hear the gospel proclaimed. Finally, say a prayer of thanksgiving to a miracle-working God who sees, hears, and acts for His glory and our good.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Miracle:** event which unmistakably involves an immediate and powerful action of God designed to reveal His character or purposes



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Have you ever been really surprised by something? What happened? In today’s Bible story, Jesus’ followers were surprised by a miracle.”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Examine the Evidence” on the activity page.

**SAY** “The clues on this activity page were a logic puzzle. By examining those clues, you were able to figure out which kid was who. Today, we will learn that the Bible helps us figure out who God is by showing us everything we need to know about His identity.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: ROLLING STONES



Distribute a small stone to each kid. Designate a starting point and finish line for a race. Direct kids to line up along the starting line. When you start the race, kids will use their feet alone to gently roll their stones along the floor. The first kid to cross the finish line with his stone wins. If your kids are kicking the stones too hard, consider implementing a rule where each stone must be in contact with the player’s foot at all times, preventing them kicking the stone ahead of themselves.

**SAY** “Today’s Bible story is about a miracle. **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.** The stones from today’s race can remind you that the stone in front of Jesus’ grave was rolled away. I can’t wait for you to hear more.”

#### OPTION 2: A STONE’S THROW AWAY

Form four teams of kids. Set up five hula hoops on the floor and assign a point value to each hoop (the closest hoop is 10 points and the furthest hoop is 50, for example).

Give each team five bean bags. Players from each team will take turns tossing the stones into the hoops to earn points. Record each team’s points and ensure each team takes the same number of turns. The team with the most points wins.

**SAY** “In that game, it was hard to always hit the mark. In our lives, it’s impossible to always hit the mark God has set for us. Our sin makes us fall short of God’s perfect requirements. That’s why Jesus came to die on the cross. He lived the perfect life we fail to live. But Jesus didn’t stay dead! Today, we’ll hear more about what happened at Jesus’ tomb on the third day.”



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story

#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Mark 16. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God’s Miracles Prove Who He Is.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### GOD’S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS

“**Jesus had died on the cross and was buried in a tomb.** On the first day of the week, **Mary Magdalene** (MAG duh leen), **Mary the mother of James, and Salome** (suh LOH mih) **went to the tomb.** It was very early in the morning on the third day after Jesus’ death. The women brought spices with them so they could anoint Jesus’ body.

**As they walked to the tomb, they thought about the large stone covering the entrance to the tomb.** “Who will roll away the stone for us?” they wondered. **But as they got close to the tomb, they saw that the stone was already rolled away.**

The women went into the tomb. **A young man wearing a white robe was sitting inside. He was an angel, and the women were afraid.**

**“Don’t be afraid,” the angel said. “You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He has risen!”** The angel invited the women to look at the place Jesus’ body had been laid. Miraculously, Jesus wasn’t there.

**“Go, tell His disciples. Tell Peter!” the angel instructed.** “Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just like He told you.”

**The women ran from the tomb.** They were overwhelmed with fear and excitement, afraid to say anything to anyone.

Christ Connection: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn’t stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and miraculously raised Jesus from the dead to prove He is the Son of God and salvation is found in Him. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Draw the scene:** Invite kids to draw the scene of the empty tomb as you tell the Bible story.

**Use props:** As you tell the Bible story, pass around a bag with various items from today’s story. These items include a small cross, a stone, small doll dresses to represent the women, various spices in a plastic bag, and a piece of cloth to represent Jesus’ burial garments. Invite the kids to pass around the items while you tell the story.

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus promised His disciples He would rise from the dead. Now the time had come for that to happen. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb to anoint Jesus. They wondered who would roll the large stone away. When they arrived, they were shocked to find the stone had already been moved. They saw an angel inside the tomb, but Jesus was nowhere to be found. The women were afraid. The angel told them not to fear. He said Jesus had risen from the dead just like He said He would. This was a miracle!

**What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.** God’s miracles prove who He is. God had a plan all along to send a Rescuer who would save people from sin. God’s promise had finally been fulfilled in Jesus! Only God can raise people from the dead. Jesus was more than a prophet; Jesus is God the Son, and His perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection prove it! We can trust God and His Word. We can look at God’s miracles and believe He is who He says He is. Jesus’ resurrection has made the way for us to have salvation. Just like the angel told the women not to fear, those who put their trust in Jesus have nothing to fear. ”

## 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn’t stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and miraculously raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

## 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 8, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can you be sure Christianity is the right religion?
2. Have you decided to follow Jesus? Why or why not?

## 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Write home and international on multiple strips of paper and mix them up.

**SAY** “ Jesus’ resurrection was the greatest miracle in history. The good news that Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection made the way for us to live with God and be freed from sin is the reason missionaries devote their lives to telling others about Jesus. Some missionaries work in their home country, and others travel to another country, but all missionaries share the gospel whenever they can. If God calls an American to go tell people about Jesus in Texas, that missionary would be a home missionary. ”

Guide the kids to come forward one at a time to choose a slip of paper. If their paper says home, ask them to point to a city in your country where missionaries could tell people about