



UNIT 8 | SESSION 4

GOD'S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS

MARK 16

KEY PASSAGE:

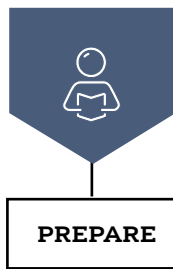
Psalm 77:14

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.

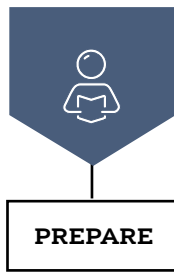
Through the miracle of Christ's finished work, we can be forgiven and reconciled

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



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ “Examine the Evidence” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ stones, 1 per kid
- ☐ small prize

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ hula hoops, 5
- ☐ bean bags, 20



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “God’s Miracles Prove Who He Is” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 8, Session 4” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ “Worthy Family Poster” printable
- ☐ world map

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “The God Who Works Wonders (Psalm 77:14)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ dry erase marker
- ☐ dry erase board



LOVE

Discussion & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ “International Missions Crossword” printable

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ brown paper plates
- ☐ cardstock
- ☐ craft sticks

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



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.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hey there! Welcome back. I’m excited to speak with you today about the greatest miracle God has ever done. It’s from a story in the Bible. Really, everything we learn here is from a story in the Bible, isn’t it? How many of you brought a Bible with you? **[Allow responses and distribute Bibles to any kids who need one.]**

Have you ever heard about something that you thought was impossible? In today’s Bible story, two women saw something that proved God can do the impossible. Jesus rose from the dead! These women and many others were eyewitnesses to this miraculous event. Let’s see how God’s miracles prove who He is. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “I keep saying miracle or miraculous. Let’s review our big picture question before we go any deeper in our story. **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 has proven over and over again that He is who He says He is. No one can take credit for God’s miracles, which is why miracles help us understand who God is. It takes an all-powerful God to do things that are impossible for everyone else. God’s miracles prove His identity as the Creator and King of the universe. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “During the last few weeks, we have seen lots of miracles that helped the Israelites understand who God is. We learned how God defeated Jericho by collapsing their walls in a miraculous way. Then we talked about how God made the sun stand still in the sky, adding more hours to the day and allow the Israelites to defeat their enemies. When Joshua was about to die, he challenged the people to obey God in the promised land. He urged them to remember the miracles God had done for them because Joshua knew that God’s miracles prove who God is. We can only obey God when we trust Him and let His power guide us. Today, we will look at the ultimate miracle of God and how Jesus made the way for us to be free from sin to love and obey God. ”



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.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus. If the paper says international, ask them to point to another country where missionaries could go. Then show the “Worthy Family Poster”

SAY “ The Worthy family is from the United States, but they live in Italy where they share the gospel. Are the Worthys home missionaries or international missionaries? [Allow responses.] That’s right! They are international missionaries. ”

Ask a volunteer to find Italy on the map. Pray that God will continue to call missionaries to work all over the world.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Invite volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Thank each kid for his efforts and encourage all the kids to continue working to memorize the passage. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 77:14 together.

SAY “ The key passage reminds us that God’s miracles prove who He said He is! He has shown His power to all people! ”

Form two teams of kids. Draw a vertical line on the dry erase board and designate one side for each team. Direct the teams to play a key passage relay. The first player from each team will race to the dry erase board and print the first word of the key passage in their team’s designated area. They’ll run to the next player, pass the marker and that player will race to the board and print the next word. The relay will continue until the key passage is completed. The first team to finish and recite the key passage in unison wins.

Lead kids to sing “The God Who Works Wonders (Psalm 77:14).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

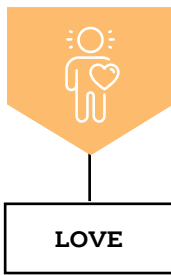
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, God, for proving exactly who You said You are! Your miracles show that You have all power because You are God. Thank You for raising Jesus from the dead to give us salvation. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Mark 16. Explain that Mark is the second book in the New Testament. It is a part of a set of books called the Gospels. The Gospels tell the account Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The Gospels include Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Remind kids that gospel means "good news."

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Mark 16:1-2 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud. Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H4) on the New Testament Israel Map.

SAY For several weeks, we have heard about God's incredible miracles. Mark 16 tells about Jesus' miraculous resurrection from the dead. Jesus was able to rise from the dead because Jesus is God! 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, and the resurrection miracle proves Jesus is God the Son, who lived a perfect life. His death was acceptable to God as a sacrifice to destroy sin. Jesus had no sin, and so He did not die for His own sin. Jesus' resurrection shows God has all power. He has the power to save people from their sins.

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY How did the women react when they arrived at Jesus' tomb? Why?

Guide kids to recognize that the women were fearful and amazed. They were expecting to anoint Jesus' body with spices. Instead, Jesus was not there. They found that the large stone had been rolled away. An angel was there so they were shocked. Their Lord was gone and they didn't understand why. They were not thinking about Jesus' promise to rise again.

SAY How did the angel respond to the women's fear?

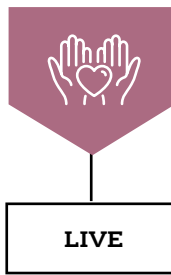
Help kids recall that the angel told the women to not be afraid. He told them what happened to Jesus and comforted them. Jesus was alive. He told the women that Jesus had gone ahead of them and would meet them in Galilee. He wanted the women to share this wonderful news.

SAY Who can you tell about the miraculous news that Jesus is God the Son, who died and rose to rescue us from sin??

Encourage the kids to think about friends, neighbors, or family members they know who may not know Jesus. Pray for the kids to have wisdom and courage to know how and when to share the gospel.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: MISSIONS CROSSWORD



Provide each kid with a copy of the “International Missions Crossword” printable and a pencil.

As a group, discuss each clue and consider how difficult it might be to learn new things. Which things might be fun to learn? Guide the kids to fill in the answers as you discuss each clue.

SAY “ International missionaries have a lot to learn when they get to their mission field. It can be tough! People there may dress differently, speak a different language, eat different foods, or follow a different religion. But all people need the same thing: to hear and believe the good news that Jesus died for our sin and rose again to save us. Every person who has ever been called to missions was once a kid like you. Someday God may call you to be a missionary. ”

Encourage the kids to ask God to help them know His will for their lives with regard to missions.

☐ OPTION 2: THE EMPTY TOMB

Provide each kid with half a sheet of brown cardstock and a brown paper plate. Invite the kids to crumple their cardstock into a loose ball. You may wish to use a spray bottle and water to spritz the cardstock so it crumples more easily. If you do, be careful not to soak it. Help the kids cut their paper plates in half and cut a semicircle the size of the cardstock ball in the straight edge of one of the plate halves. Glue or tape the two plate halves together so that the rims meet and both straight edges are on the bottom. Use craft sticks to make three crosses and tape them to the top of each tomb. Allow the craft to dry.

SAY “ Jesus’ tomb is empty! Jesus is alive with all power. Jesus died and rose again to save all who believe in Him from their sin! This craft will help you remember this wonderful news of the gospel. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.