



Unit 8 | Session 4

GOD'S MIRACLES PROVE WHO HE IS

Mark 16

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.



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen 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.

- **What is the most incredible thing you have ever seen or experienced? How did it make you feel?**
- **Who did you tell about it?**

2 SESSION STARTER

☐ OPTION 1: BOULDER RUN



Form two groups of kids. Clear a playing area and instruct the teams to sit on opposite sides. Give one team a large ball such as a beach ball or rubber playground ball. Choose one volunteer (“the runner”) to stand at one end of the room and walk to the other end between the two groups.

The groups should roll the ball across the floor, trying to hit the runner as she moves between the teams. For an added challenge, increase the number of balls. Play additional rounds with new volunteers.

SAY “A huge boulder blocked the entrance to Jesus’ tomb. Women came to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body. They wondered how they would move the stone to enter the tomb, but when they arrived, they received a big surprise!”

☐ OPTION 2: WHAT’S MISSING?

Place three or four items on a tray. Allow kids to look at the items, and then cover the tray with a towel or cloth. Ask kids to close their eyes, and then secretly remove one item from the tray. Allow kids to open their eyes, and then remove the cover from the tray. Kids must now guess which item you removed. Add additional items in subsequent rounds to increase difficulty.

SAY “Some things are difficult to remember. Others are unforgettable. Some people do not believe Jesus rose from the dead. They claim the women who came to see Jesus were overwhelmed and went to the wrong tomb, one that had not yet been used. Jesus had changed the lives of these women. He was their Lord, and they loved Him. They saw where Jesus was buried with their own eyes (Mark 15:47). People do not forget where someone they love is buried. The tomb was empty because Jesus was alive!”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear how God's miracles prove who He is. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from Mark 16.

•What does this story teach us about God?

Jesus had come back to life, just as He said He would. **God fulfilled His word and worked 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.

•Why can we trust Jesus with our lives?

Since God brought Jesus back to life, we can trust Him to forgive our sin and give us the gift of eternal life. Since Jesus kept His promise to come back to life, we can trust Him to always be faithful and keep His promises.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

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.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Write home and international on multiple strips of paper and mix them up. Display a world map. Explain that the good news that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection made the way for us to live with God and free from sin is the reason missionaries devote their lives to telling others. Some missionaries work in their home country (home missionaries), and others travel to another country (international missionaries), but all missionaries share the gospel whenever God calls them. Guide the kids to take turns choosing a slip of paper. If their paper says home, ask them to point on the map to a city in your country where missionaries could tell people about Jesus. If the paper says international, ask them to point to another country where missionaries could go.

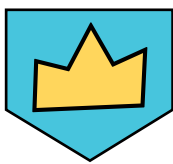
3 PRAY

Thank You, God, for raising Jesus from the dead. You can do anything. Help us to follow Jesus and trust in Him. Thank You for giving us the hope of eternal life. We love You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



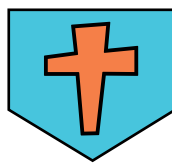
GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



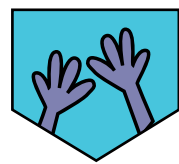
GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



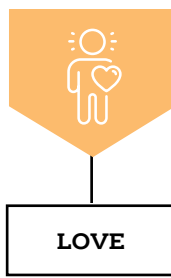
JESUS GIVES.

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

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

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Mark 16. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Mark 16:6-7. Remind preteens that God worked many miracles in this area of the world. What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful. We can trust God with our lives and follow Jesus.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Mark 16:6-7 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What obstacle did the women anticipate facing at the tomb? Is there any obstacle in your life keeping you from following Jesus as you should?

Point out that God has worked many miracles. He brought Jesus back from the dead! Assure kids that there is no obstacle God cannot overcome. Suggest kids ask God to help them in their struggles so that they can grow and follow Jesus more closely. Encourage kids to speak to a parent or other trusted adult about any problems they're facing. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 1:2-4.)

2. Who can you tell about the good news of Jesus?

Explain that kids can remind other Christians about Jesus' resurrection. This good news gives us hope and helps us look forward to spending eternity with God. We can also share the gospel with people who do not follow Jesus. Jesus is the only way for people to have forgiveness and life forever instead of death and punishment in hell. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Mark 16:15.)

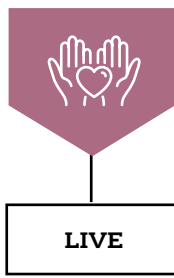
3. How do the Bible stories about miracles change how you think about God? How might these truths change your life?

Invite kids to share their ideas. Any time we read or study the Bible, we should respond, which means doing something about what we have learned. God's Word can transform and change us to be more like Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 4:12.)

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.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Before the session, write each word of the key passage on a separate index card. Prepare two sets. Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 77:14. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together.

Form two groups. Remove about half the cards from each set of key passage cards, and then provide one incomplete set to each group. Challenge kids to lay out the cards in the correct order, accounting for the missing words. Once kids have completed the task, encourage them to read the key passage, providing the missing words from memory.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for the life He gives us through our risen Savior.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

TELL SOMEBODY

Distribute paper (blank or ruled) and writing utensils. Direct kids to write down a list of people they can tell about Jesus. Encourage them to especially think about people who are not followers of Jesus. Next, invite kids to write down what they would say in a conversation with one of these people. Specifically, how would they explain the gospel? What would they say to someone who does not believe the resurrection actually happened?

Remind kids that they may not always have all the answers, but a good place to start is to share their stories and talk about how God has changed them. Finally, guide kids to make a plan for this conversation. When and where will it take place?

Say that the angel in the tomb told the women to go and tell others that Jesus was alive. You can I should tell other people the good news about Jesus, too.