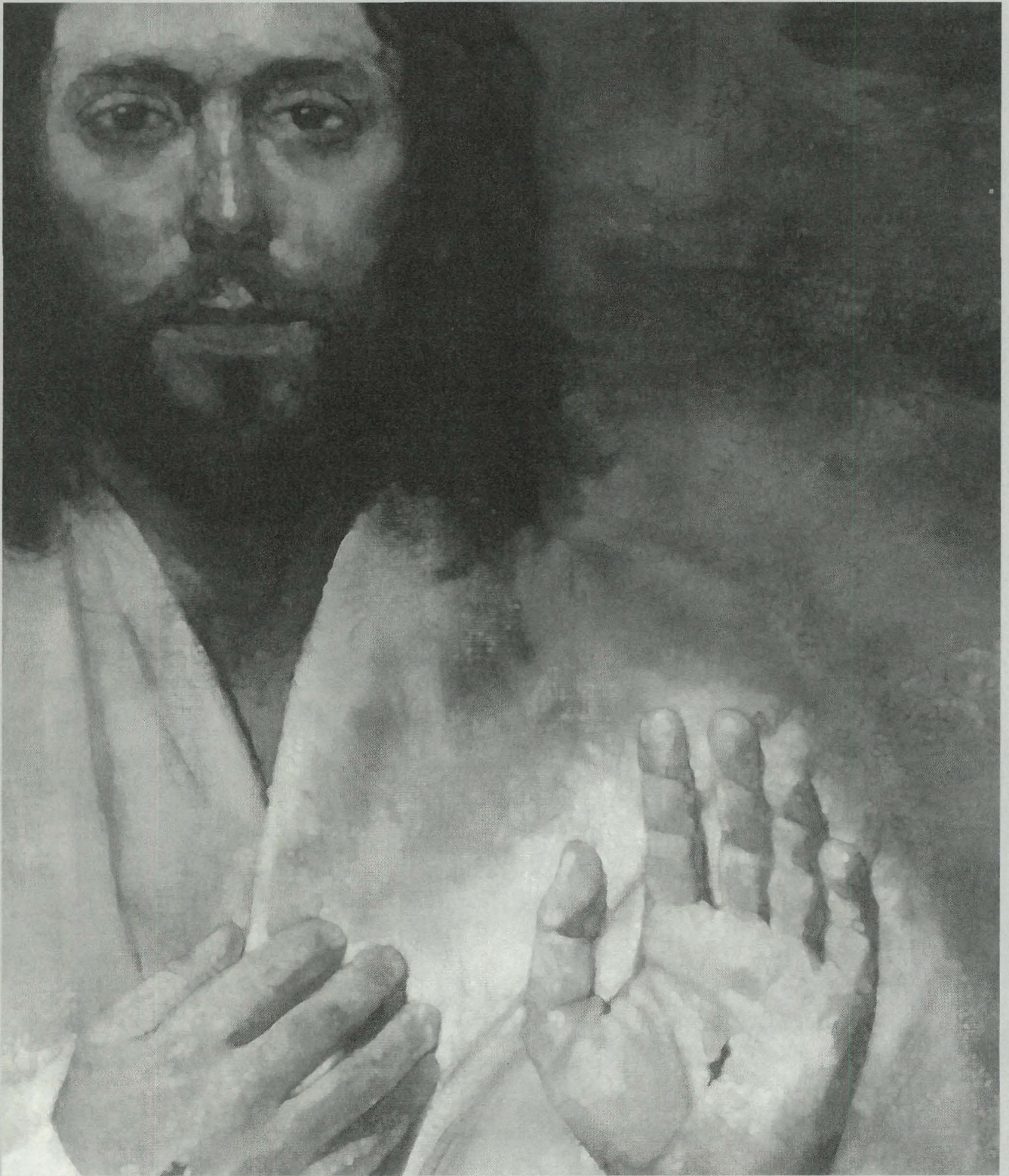
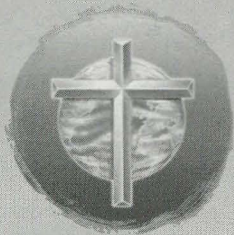


Study Guide





LifeLight

LifeLight Expands

Available NOW!

LifeLight Original Studies

(available until they are updated to new format; see schedule below)

Hebrews	Ephesians/	Luke, Pt. 1	Life of David
Revelation	1 & 2 Thessalonians	Luke, Pt. 2	Selected Psalms
Isaiah, Pt. 1	1 Corinthians	Minor Prophets	
Isaiah, Pt. 2	2 Corinthians	Daniel	

LifeLight New Format

(* all-new studies)

1 John	Genesis, Pt. 1	John, Pt. 2	Acts, Pt. 1
* The Bible: An Overview	Genesis, Pt. 2	* 1 & 2 Peter	Acts, Pt. 2
Matthew, Pt. 1	Romans, Pt. 1	Exodus, Pt. 1	* Proverbs
Matthew, Pt. 2	Romans, Pt. 2	Exodus, Pt. 2	
* Galatians/Phili/Col	John, Pt. 1	* James/Jude	

LifeLight Foundations

Prophecy Bible Feasts Miracles

LifeLight Release Schedule

(* all-new LifeLight ** all-new LifeLight Foundations)

LifeLight—Hebrews	1/05	LifeLight—Minor Prophets	1/09
LifeLight—Revelation	4/05	LifeLight—Daniel	4/09
* LifeLight—Timothy/Titus/Philemon	7/05	* LifeLight—Mark	7/09
**LifeLight Foundations—Law & Gospel	10/05	**LifeLight Foundations—Ministry	10/09
LifeLight—Isaiah Pt. 1	1/06	LifeLight—Life of David	1/10
LifeLight—Isaiah Pt. 2	4/06	LifeLight—Selected Psalms	4/10
* LifeLight—Joshua	7/06	* LifeLight—Ecclesiastes/Song of Songs	7/10
**LifeLight Foundations—Baptism	10/06	**LifeLight Foundations—Creation/ New Creation	10/10
LifeLight—1 Corinthians	1/07	LifeLight—Ephesians/1 & 2 Thessalonians	1/11
LifeLight—2 Corinthians	4/07		
* LifeLight—Judges	7/07	<u>Other Future Studies:</u>	
**LifeLight Foundations— Between the Testaments	10/07	1, 2 & 3 John	
LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 1	1/08	Job	
LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 2	4/08	Wilderness Wanderings (Lev., Num. & Deut.)	
* LifeLight—Ruth/Esther	7/08	Ezra, Nehemiah	
**LifeLight Foundations—Triune God	10/08	<u>These helpful resources are also available:</u>	
		Intro Kit	
		LifeLight for Little Ones	

Miracles with a Purpose

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1
Use enrichment magazine pp. 2-3.

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

Hymn

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley, 1707-88

Prayer

Lord, You tell us that if we lack wisdom, we should ask and it will be given generously to us (James 1:5), so grant us wisdom as we study Your signs and wonders. Through this study, may we know anew "that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing [we] may have life in His name" (John 20:31). In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 1

Day 1 • "Just What Is a Miracle?"

1. When people say such things as, "It was miracle we weren't killed!" or "If that marriage lasts, it'll be miracle!" what do they mean?

2a. What comes to mind when you hear the word *miracle*?

b. Describe what you believe was a miracle in your life or in the life of someone else.

3a. **Challenge question.** Read Hebrews 2:1-4. What contrast does the writer of Hebrews make between the Old Testament Law given to Moses ("the message spoken by angels") and the message of grace (salvation)? See especially verse 3.

b. How did God confirm the truth of the message of salvation (v. 4)?

c. Read Isaiah 35:5-6. What proof would there be to demonstrate that the promised Messiah had come into the world? See also Luke 7:18-22.

4. Read the following passages. What was the purpose served by miracles in each instance?

a. John 20:31

b. Acts 8:6

c. Acts 14:3

dynamite. The Greek word for *sign* is *semeion*, from which we get the English word for the art of sign language—*semeiology*. In what way are miracles “sign(atures) of God”?

7. Though miracles are direct acts of a supernatural, and hence superhuman, power to accomplish what natural forces may not do, why should it be of comfort to us as Christians that supernatural activity is natural for God?

Romans 8:28

Genesis 50:20 (If you are unfamiliar with the story of Joseph, read Genesis 45:4–9.)

Day 2 • Other Words for a Miracle

5. The word *miracle* comes from the word *miraculum*, which is a translation of the Greek word *thauma*. This Greek word was used most often to describe something that was done by the trick of the hand or was an illusion, such as in magic.

a. What comes to mind when you hear the word *magic*?

b. What separated the miracles of Jesus from the work of magicians?

8a. Read Mark 2:3–12. This is one of many miracles where those who witnessed it recognized that what was done was supernatural—beyond something that could happen naturally. What physical efforts on the part of the four men in the story convinced Jesus of their great faith?

b. Many, including St. Augustine, thought the greatest miracle of all was conversion. How does this miracle reflect such thinking, and how did Jesus take care of that need (v. 5)?

6. Read Acts 2:22. Though some translations may have “miracles, wonders and signs,” a better translation of the first word might be “power.” The Greek word used here is *dunamis*, from which comes our English word

Miracles and Science

Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2
Use enrichment magazine pp. 26-29.

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

Hymn

I am trusting You, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only You;
Trusting You for full salvation,
Free and true.

I am trusting You for pardon;
At Your feet I bow,
For Your grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting You for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting You to make me holy
By Your blood.

I am trusting You to guide me;
You alone shall lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.

Prayer

Dear Lord, the greatest miracle is that You chose us to be Your sons and daughters. Help us to believe, with even more fervor, that if You "did not spare [Your] own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will [You] not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). So grant us now wisdom from Your Word that our faith might continue to grow and prosper. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 2

Day 1 • Difference between Supernatural and Natural

1. From what you learned in Session 1, write out a definition of a miracle.
2. Do you think science disproves the miracles of the Bible? If not, why not?
3. Science studies nature. What is meant by the fact that miracles are "supernatural"?

4. Someone has suggested that whether miracles happened is not for science to decide, but instead is a matter of historical investigation. What do you think? Is there sufficient evidence that an adequate body of credible people witnessed Jesus doing the signs that are credited to Him in the Gospel records—and especially the greatest sign and miracle, His resurrection?

John 21:24

Acts 1:3

b. How does 1 Corinthians 15:6 give credibility to the legitimacy of the miracles?

Acts 10:39–41

7a. According to an early church “father,” St. Augustine, the greatest miracle is seen in the conversion of humans. What is so remarkable about the conversion recorded in Acts 9:1–19 that might support calling it a *miracle*?

1 Corinthians 15:3–8

5. **Challenge question.** Agree or disagree? J. N. S. Sullivan, a world-renowned mathematician, in his book *The Limitations of Science* (New York: Mentor Books, 1949, pp. 142, 147) said, “Science is confined to a knowledge of structure . . . science deals with but a partial aspect of reality, and there is (not the) slightest reason for supposing that everything science ignores is less real than what it accepts.”

b. Why is it true that *every* Christian’s conversion is a miracle?

Ephesians 2:1, 8–9

Romans 1:16; 8:7

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Day 2 • Authenticity of the Miracles

6. People have offered a variety of reasons why one should believe the miracles recorded in the Bible. Some of these reasons are that people were willing to give up their lives for what they knew to be true; hostile witnesses did not dispute the miracles themselves; and witnesses were still alive when the record of the miracles was recorded.

a. How does the fact that many of the disciples and believers were willing to die for their faith support—or not support—the authenticity of miracles?

8. According to 1 Corinthians 2:14, why is conversion against anything that makes sense rationally?

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Day 3 • Against the Rules of Nature

9. Some would suggest that there are basically two different kinds of miracles: miracles of creation and miracles of providence. Miracles of creation take place when God sets aside His basic laws of conservation