MIRACLE MONTH OF MAY

What are you believing for?

Welcome to the miracle month of May!

As we focus this month on creating deeper understanding and hunger to see God work in miraculous ways in our lives and church, we're going to spend a few weeks in connect groups answering some of the big questions about miracles: Is God able? What's the formula? What if He does and what if He doesn't?

As we gather around tables, in homes, and around the Word, let's go on this journey together. Let's create time for prayer and a safe space for honest conversation, believing that we won't just learn about miracles but that we would see God move in radical ways!

Miracle Report

This month when God answers prayer, please let us know by filling out a praise report in your local campus as well as emailing *goodnews@hillsong.com*. We'd love to hear your stories and celebrate together!

Reading Resources

The Case for Miracles - Lee Strobel Miracles - CS Lewis Spiritual Disciplines Handbook - Adele Calhoun Celebration of Discipline - Richard Foster

The Power of Spiritual Alignment: Living According to the Seven Firsts of Jesus - Frank Damazio

IS GOD ABLE?

STUDY 1

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 22:9-14 Judges 6:24 Ephesians 3:20 (NIV) Exodus 15:22-26 Jeremiah 32:17 (NIV) Romans 15:4 (NIV)

When faced with a seemingly insurmountable obstacle, perhaps a significant illness or a relationship that seems broken beyond the possibility of repair, we must first ask ourselves this question: *Is God able? Is He able to heal? Is He able to do the impossible?*

The people of God in the Old Testament learned that miracles weren't just something God did, but Miracle Worker is who God is! In *Genesis 22:9-14* they learned that He is Jehovah Jireh – the Lord who provides. In *Exodus 15:22-26* they learned that He is Jehovah Rophe – the Lord who heals. In *Judges 6:24* they learned that He is Jehovah Shalom – the Lord our peace. These names, amongst others, reveal that these aren't just things that God does, but they are a part of His character – who He is.

The prophet Jeremiah says "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." (Jeremiah 32:17 NIV). Ephesians 3:20 (NIV) leaves us no doubt that God is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..."

Are you facing something [today] that seems impossible to overcome? Do you find it difficult to believe that God is able? Take a moment and share stories of times that you have faced an insurmountable obstacle, but God miraculously made a way. Maybe this is a story of healing, miraculous provision or answer to prayer. Stop to thank God and praise Him for what He has done.

Spend time in prayer beginning by thanking and praising God for who He is and the good things He has done. Then believing that God is able, present requests to Him and ask that He would again work in miraculous ways today!

DIVE DEEPER

Throughout Scripture, the people of God constantly reminded themselves of key miracles that God had done. For example, eight different Psalms directly reference the miracles involved in God leading the Israelites out of Egypt. These miracles became the substance of the praise of people generations later.

Romans 15:4 (NIV) says "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." Starting from the very beginning with creation, name some of the miraculous things God has done that are now a part of our history as the people of God. How do these events, many of which took place thousands of years ago, shape our understanding of who God is today?

Maybe you know of stories of how God has worked in generations before you, perhaps in your parents or grandparents, or stories you have heard from people who are of no relation. Share those and answer the question, how do these stories become the substance of our praise today?