

# 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](mailto: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

# WHAT IS THE FORMULA?

## STUDY 2

### SCRIPTURES

Matthew 8:1-17  
Acts 10:38

Matthew 3:13-17  
Ephesians 1:18-21

John 14:12

We've established that God is able. He is able to answer prayer. He is able to heal, set free, save, and deliver. He's able to do more than we can imagine! This leads to an obvious question that so many of us would love to have answered, something along the lines of, "Ok, now what!?" Or put plainly, "*What's the formula? Tell us what to do to get the miracle and we'll do it!*"

Read *Matthew 8:1-17*. As you do, notice the differences in the four people (or groups of people) who were recipients of a miracle from Jesus.

As much as we would like a formula, these 17 verses show us that there isn't one. In *verses 1-4* a man with leprosy comes to Jesus and asks for healing. You could stop there and say that his faith was the formula. In *verses 5-13* the centurion asks for healing on behalf of his servant. You could stop there and say that the faith of someone else is the formula. *Verses 14-15* further complicate things as seemingly no-one asked for a miracle. Jesus simply saw Peter's mother-in-law unwell and responded accordingly. Then, *verses 16-17* throw any potential formula out the window as Jesus comes against spiritual opposition and drove out evil spirits from those possessed by demons.

There is one common thread woven throughout these four consecutive stories. The place where God's power in Jesus collided with a real need, a miracle took place. What do you see in this collision between need and God's power? How might this cause your faith to increase? Perhaps you are facing a real challenge. Could it be that the pain, the heartache, or the impossibility is, in fact, an opportunity for God to move? Take a moment to share about this. What situations are you facing that if presented to God could become the very space in which His power can be seen? What else do you notice in these stories that encourages you about God's ability to do miracles?

Take a moment in prayer to present your needs to God. Release the impossibility to Him and thank Him for His power. Thank Him that nothing is impossible.

### DIVE DEEPER

We know that Jesus was fully man and fully God. Read *Acts 10:38* and see that though Jesus is God, the miracles He performed were performed as a man anointed by the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 3:13-17* is the story of Jesus' baptism and anointing by the Holy Spirit. With that in mind, what does *Ephesians 1:18-21* mean for us today?

*John 14:12* talks about people who believe in Jesus doing what He did and even greater things than He did because He was going to Father. That chapter goes on to include Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit to come. Perhaps you'd like to read all of John 14 and see how the Holy Spirit empowers us today.