

Getting To Know You

1. Is it easy or hard for you to believe God still heals? How have you come to think this way?
2. When is the last time you asked God for a miracle? What happened? What did you think or feel?
3. John Newton said, "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, In a believer's ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear". Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
4. Wayne Grudem said, "...quite often at the beginning of an elder meeting we'll lay hands on someone and anoint someone with oil in prayer for healing according to James 5. God sometimes answers those prayers in wonderful, and I would say miraculous ways". Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
5. John Piper said, "God heals, he heals cancer, he heals sore throats... so we should ask for the gift... I put my hands-on people and I ask God then and there to do something... there have been a few where they have come back with excitement that they have been touched and healed." Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
6. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. Do you ever acknowledge God's creative design of us as humans as a miracle? How is God's grace on display with our immune systems and the complexity of our anatomy and physiology as humans? How often do we experience God's healing hand and don't even realize it? Explain. Do you ever take it for granted?

What are some ways that you can glorify God for His miraculous work in creation? Explain.

2. Do you believe that God has the power to heal? Explain. Have you ever prayed for someone to be healed and God healed them? What were the circumstances? Have you ever prayed for someone to be healed and God chose not to heal? What were the circumstances? What was your response to the situation? What are some examples in scripture that God chose to heal? What are some examples of God choosing not to heal? What was God's response to Paul? What does 2 Corinthians 12:9 say?

Is God's grace sufficient for you? Explain?

3. What are some reasons that Jesus didn't perform miracles? What happens in Mark 8:11-12? Why do the Pharisees want Jesus to perform a sign? What are their motives? What is Jesus response? What is your understanding of this? What was their response in other instances where Jesus performed miracles?

Why didn't Jesus perform miracles in Nazareth? What does Matthew 13:53-58 say? What did they say about Jesus? What was Jesus' response?

What could Jesus have done in the Garden of Gethsemane as He is being arrested? Why did He not call the angels to intervene? What does Matthew 26:51-56 say? Is God's primary concern for us from an eternal or temporal perspective? What perspective do you most operate from? Explain.

4. How important is faith to God? Where would you say your faith is right now? How is it healthy? How can it grow? In Mark 9, a father brings his son to Jesus to be healed/delivered from an unclean spirit. What does the father say in verse 22? What is Jesus' response in verse 23? What is the father's response in verse 24? Have you ever been there? Have you ever had faith/belief and doubt/unbelief at the same time? You ever prayed to God to help your unbelief/doubt?

Why were the disciples unable to cast it out? Who do you need to be praying for?

5. What are some examples where the faith of others was the reason Jesus healed? What are some examples where it was the faith of the individual? How does this apply to us today?
6. Is our faith based on what God does/doesn't do or who He is? Explain. What do you believe about who God is? What physical, spiritual, or emotional miracle are you trusting God with? In prayer this week, ask God to grow your faith. Ask Him to grow your understanding of who He is.

Growing Closer

1. Who is someone you shared the gospel with this week?
2. What have you been reading in your quiet times?
3. What has God been teaching you?

When Pigs Fly

Healing

Mark 5:21-43

1. God has the power to heal, but He doesn't always choose to
 - a. Trophimus (2 Tim. 4:20)
 - b. Timothy (1 Tim. 5:23)
 - b. Paul (2 Cor. 12:7-9)
2. Reasons Jesus didn't perform miracles
 - a. Jesus refused to perform miracles to prove himself (Mark 8:11-12)
 - b. Jesus never performed a miracle that interfered with God's ultimate plan (Matt. 26:51-54)
 - c. Jesus didn't do miracles where there was no faith (Matt. 13:53-58)
3. When God chooses to heal, faith is at the center of it
 - a. Faith of others (vs. 22-23; 35-43)
 - b. Faith of the individual (vs. 25-34)

Key Thought, "Our faith is not based on what He does, but who He is"