



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Two

We continued the introduction of our Believe in Miracle series within our year-long look at the Gospel of John. After his first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding feast, Jesus is in the temple announcing through words and actions that the people had lost the plot. Something bigger was happening, and the Jews asked Jesus for a sign of what was to come. What was to come was a miraculous resurrection that would usher in new life for his followers. But in that moment he simply gave them words that pointed to the future miracle.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

God,

Give me patience as I wait for your intervention in specific situations in my life and in the world.

I look for the third-day miracles of resurrection in every aspect of my life.

In my home, in my workplace, in the community in which I live, and around the world.

Today I pray for your miraculous movement in seemingly impossible situations like the current attack on the country of Ukraine. I cling to your promises of a future resurrection for your people. May I see glimpses of that today.

Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 2.13-17

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!”¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

- This is such a genuine moment from Jesus. Most of us can relate to the feeling in your gut when the things we see happening around us are *just not right*. Jesus cleared the temple, and in doing so, cleared the way for a confrontation with the Jewish leaders. Sometimes doing the right thing leads to more confrontation—more trouble. But out of that confrontation comes an opportunity to point to the bigger story of God’s salvation.
- *Jesus, thank you for your boldness in the temple that day. May my zeal for you lead me to point out injustice. Let all of it point to you and not to me.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 2.18-22

The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹ *Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”*

²⁰ *They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?”* ²¹ *But the temple he had spoken of was his body.* ²² *After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.*

- As is common with Jesus, he answered a direct question with a seemingly mysterious phrase. Jesus is alluding to his own miraculous resurrection that is coming. His body is the temple that will rise again in three days. But what the people had asked him for was a more immediate sign. Do you know that sense of urgency? “Show me what you are up to, Jesus. Show me now!” Sometimes the answer is a coming miracle that we can not yet see.
- *God, I want to see what you are up to today. Ultimately, I have faith that you are bringing salvation through Jesus Christ. Steady my heart and mind. I want to see your glory!*

WEDNESDAY: ISAIAH 7.11-14

“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² *But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”*

¹³ *Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?”* ¹⁴ *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

- The prophet Isaiah made this announcement about Mary and her son Jesus well in advance. This is the sign we are looking for even if we don’t know to look for it, or are afraid to ask for it. The Lord will send us a sign anyway. Isaiah’s audience didn’t live long enough to see it with their own eyes, and we may or may not live long enough to see the return of Christ to the earth, but the sign is the same—God is with us (Immanuel) and offers us salvation.
- *God, thank you for the signs throughout your Word that point me to your handiwork. Connect me to the story of your salvation today.*

THURSDAY: MATTHEW 24.1-3

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ² *“Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”*

³ *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”*

- Here in the Gospel of Matthew, we hear this same claim from Jesus. The temple will crumble. The truth of what Jesus said is seen on a couple of levels. The temple itself would be taken down...and

we still wait today for it's rebuilding. But the temple of Jesus' body has already been torn down and rebuilt.

- *Jesus, today I invite you to tear down what you need to tear down so that my life might be built back with your resurrection power.*

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 24.4-8

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.

- Even in the middle of wars and rumors of wars we can know that the end that is ultimately coming is going to be under God's control. Those who claim ultimate power in this world and are causing destruction will not prevail in the end that Jesus is referring to. And this end will be preceded by signs that are not miracles, but things like famine and earthquakes. Instead of getting caught up in trying to predict the timing of the end, we can look to the hope of resurrection.
- *Thank you, God, for sending the true Messiah. Guard me from looking for my salvation anywhere else.*

SATURDAY: MATTHEW 24.9-14

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- After many dark signs shared by Jesus, the word of hope comes in verse 13. The one who stands firm in Jesus will see salvation and the good news will be shared to all nations. The signs here should increase our desire to see and taste the coming kingdom of God.
- *God, I long for your salvation. Give me strength for endurance in this broken world.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- **Jesus' miracles involve waiting and mystery, and show us there is much we don't understand.** How does a season of waiting for God's miracles impact your faith?
- **Jesus' miracles lead us to believe.** What are the miracle stories that have led you to believe? Have they become a regular part of your faith story? When do you share them?