



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Four

Dear friends,

We are in week four of this message series on Miracles that will take us all the way to Easter. Chapter 4 of John is full and has a lot going on. The message this week couldn't cover it all so I encourage you to spend time exploring and praying through the portions we didn't get to. I'll include some of that below. May you experience the power of Jesus' presence with you as you spend time with him at the deep well of his Word. Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship 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.

*Jesus, Savior of the world,
You show up in the right place and the right time—even when I fail to see you.
Look into the story of my life, reveal my brokenness and give me your living water.
I pray for your miraculous intervention in my life and in the world.
Let me be close enough to testify of your great works—that others might believe.
Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 2.11, 4.46

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine.

- These two verses provide a reference point for Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well that we will look at tomorrow. Notice how after two chapters, Cana is labeled by the first miracle. We are being oriented to a life that is measured by the latest movement of God. Do you have markers

in your own life that serve as reminders of what God has done? What has God done that caused you to notice and to remember?

- *Jesus, thank you for a memory of miracles. May those memories encourage me to look for more of you when I enter my home, school, or place of work.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 4.4-9

Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ *When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)*

⁹ *The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)*

- Jesus stopped to rest at Jacob's well. This land that Jesus was passing through (Samaria) on his way home was connected to the whole story of God's people. Jesus knew the stories and he had studied the Torah. The story of Jacob and Rachel, and the sons of Jacob would surely be front-of-mind for Jesus. Samaritans were known for their inadequate observance of the Torah. They were thought of as outsiders. Knowing all of that, it would have been customary for Jesus and this woman to ignore one another. The woman probably should have waited to approach the well until Jesus continued his journey. But Jesus sees her and speaks to her.
- *Give me eyes to see you in all the places you hang out today, Jesus. Thank you for seeing me and recognizing me even when I am far off.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 4.10-14

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ *"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"*

¹³ *Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

- Jesus began to reveal who he is. His request for water might even predict his cry of thirst on the cross. As a man walking the earth, Jesus experienced actual thirst. He knew why the woman would dare to come to the water in the middle of the day...water is life. But his request for water from her opened the door to share living water that will lead to eternal life. She heard the beginning of this promise and looked for ways to draw living water. She didn't fully understand (do we fully understand?) but looked for ways to respond. But soon the thirst of her soul would be satisfied.
- *God, let me drink from the living water today. May it bubble up in me on my way to eternal life.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 4.17-20

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband."¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

- Ouch. Jesus saw this woman’s story. The truth was not hidden from him, and realizing that, the woman quickly changed the subject. Oftentimes, when I’m uncomfortable or feeling guilty for an action or inaction, I want to change the subject. It doesn’t always feel good to know that you are known. And the easiest way to change the subject is to dive into the latest division. Cultural wrangling can serve as a way to avoid addressing my own thirsty soul.
- *Jesus, today I want to hear what you see in me. Help me to not change the subject.*

FRIDAY: JOHN 4.31-38

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

³² *But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”*

³³ *Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”*

³⁴ *“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”*

- The disciples returned from their mission of gathering food for the journey and encouraged Jesus to eat. He was fed and feeling a sense of fulfillment in seeing a woman’s life changed. The urgency of the “harvest” overpowered a sense of physical hunger. Have you ever felt that you were so close to the purpose God has for you that you couldn’t think about anything else?
- *God, sustain me with a passion for seeing others find their true life in you.*

SATURDAY: JOHN 4.39-42

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² *They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”*

- In a quick unfolding of events, the Samaritan woman shared her story with others. Many (not all) of them came to believe in him based on her words. That’s a lot of power in words. Her story drew people to this man who saw her sin and offered her life. Your testimony gets people to Jesus where they can hear it for themselves.
- *God, give me the words and courage to share my testimony with others today.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Jesus rightly gets attention for the performing signs and wonders, but it seems that he really just wants to be able to meet with us on an average Tuesday. He sometimes instructed those who had received a miraculous healing to keep it to themselves. He didn't say that to the woman at the well who had a seemingly less miraculous encounter with him. Many of our encounters with Jesus take place between miracles but they are just as likely to change our lives.

- When have you had an average encounter with Jesus that ended up changing your perspective or changing your life?
- What testimony about Jesus do you have to share with others? Are there things that keep you from sharing it?