



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Five

This week we are taking a closer look at the second miracle detailed in the book of John. It's found at the end of chapter 4. A boy is healed when Jesus declares it so and the father (still miles away from his boy) believes. My prayer for you is that you would live your life this week as if the miracle of God is on the way. The promises of Jesus lead us to life. May you walk with brisk anticipation of his faithfulness.

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](http://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.

Lord,  
You know the desires of my heart even better than I do.  
Hear my cries for healing...for the end of conflict...for peace.  
I will move in the direction of the miracle I am praying for today.  
Meet me with news of your faithfulness.  
Amen.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: JOHN 4.43-45

*After the two days he left for Galilee. <sup>44</sup> (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) <sup>45</sup> When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.*

- The reception of Jesus in Galilee was a noticeable shift. He was welcomed and celebrated in a way that indicated that people were beginning to see that he was something more than just the son of a carpenter they had watched grow up. Jesus' words and actions in Jerusalem had resulted in an expanded understanding of who he was and is. We can get locked into our identities. Returning back home can be a return to who you used to be. If you are a Jesus follower, can you think of a specific time or season when your understanding of who Jesus is underwent this kind of shift?

- *Jesus, expand my mind as I consider who you are. You are the son of a carpenter, but also (and ultimately), you are the Son of God.*

## **TUESDAY: JOHN 4.46-50a**

*Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.*

<sup>48</sup> *“Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”*

<sup>49</sup> *The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”*

<sup>50</sup> *“Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.”*

- The miracles that Jesus performed often looked like acts of compassion (and on one level they certainly were). But there was always a bigger purpose. The point of the miracles was not day-to-day survival, but eternal life for all who would believe. Jesus saw the royal man’s desperation but he also saw whole households and communities that needed salvation. Our desperation for God’s intervention in our lives leads us to seek him out. It can be difficult to stay focused on the big picture when we have real and immediate pain. Jesus meets us there. Don’t let the miracle become separated from the miracle worker.
- *Jesus thank you for meeting me in my desperation. May I grow in my belief in your ability to rescue me.*

## **WEDNESDAY: JOHN 4.50b-53**

*The man took Jesus at his word and departed. <sup>51</sup> While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. <sup>52</sup> When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”*

<sup>53</sup> *Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.*

- The royal man recalled the moment when Jesus had instructed him to go home and find that his son was well. When you ask God to intervene, pay attention to the circumstances. Where were you? What time was it? These details could be important in your response and your future witness to the goodness of God.
- *God, give me the faith to take you at your word. May I have faith to run toward your promised miracle even before I can see it.*

## **THURSDAY: JOSHUA 21.43-45**

*So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. <sup>44</sup> The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hands. <sup>45</sup> Not one of all the LORD’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.*

- After a long season of wandering, God’s people saw the fulfillment of the promised land. He gave them rest and protected them. God was forming his people during that long season, preparing them for the realization of his promise to them. What if the father in John 4 was sent on a decades-long journey instead of being told to go directly home? What do you think it says about the situation? Or the man’s heart? Or Jesus’ heart?

- *God, I've seen many of your promises come true in my time. Yet I wait with confidence for the promise of eternal life to be fully realized in me.*

#### **FRIDAY: JEREMIAH 29.11-14**

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.<sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.<sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.<sup>14</sup> I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."*

- God has plans for us. He does not withhold good things from us, we are simply invited to seek them out. God will listen to our cries and lead us out of whatever kind of captivity we find ourselves in today. What are you currently held captive by?
- *God, your plans and your ways are higher than mine. Form my desires so that they might reflect your will for me.*

#### **SATURDAY: HEBREWS 10.23-25**

*Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,<sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

- I imagine that there were moments later in the royal man's (from John 4) story when someone reminded him of God's faithfulness. Holding on to hope is a distinctly Christian theme. Sharing hope is the work of a believer. We meet together in worship, small groups, discipleship groups and through serving side by side. Let's not stop! Every time the royal man glanced at his healed son, he remembered and was encouraged.
- *Jesus, I hold on to the hope I have in you. It's all I have. You have shown up before. Show up today!*

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- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

In the account written in John 4.43-53, the timing of the boy's healing was an important factor in his father's ability to attribute the healing to Jesus. He noticed the time at which Jesus told him his son would be well, and it matched the timing of his son's healing. In his message, Pastor Jacob said,

“We have to start writing the times down when we meet with Jesus. We need to carry journals, open our notes on our iPhones. And write, I can't see anything right now, but I just spent time with the Lord...”

- Have you ever noticed a correlation between a welcomed healing or resolution and time spent with Jesus?
- What practice will you develop in order to be better positioned to give credit to God for the good things in your life?