



Study Guide

When Pigs Fly Study Guide

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Series Overview

By studying the miracles Jesus performed in the book of John, we can gain a better understanding of who Jesus is and what He does in our lives. Jesus' miracles were not magic tricks to show off His power. They were signs that demonstrated who He is as our Savior.

Using This Guide

You may choose to use this guide:

- for personal study and reflection
- as a discussion guide with any group of people interested in what the Bible says about these topics

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1-Turning Water to Wine

Icebreaker: Wedding Memories

Discuss memories from weddings you have attended.

Questions for Study or Discussion

● Jesus got an invitation to a wedding (**John 2:1-2**). Describe what it looks like in our culture for a couple to invite Jesus to their wedding.

● When you notice a problem, what factors cause you to opt for each of the following actions?

- ▶ Do not intercede. Let those with the problem take care of it.
- ▶ Step forward to solve the problem.
- ▶ Ask Jesus to decide what to do.

How did Mary react when she became aware of the wine shortage (**John 2:3-5**)?

● Who witnessed the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine (**John 2:6-11**)? Why do you think Jesus did not make it a public miracle?

● Considering that this was Jesus' first miracle, what affect did it have on His disciples (**John 2:11** and **John 1:14**)?

● What is the purpose of miracles (**John 5:18-24** and **John 20:30-31**)?

Dig a Little Deeper: Source of Joy

Wine is a symbol of joy ([Jdg 9:13](#) and [Psa 104:15](#)).

- The world offers the best first. Once you are 'hooked,' things get worse.
- Jesus continues to offer the best until one day, we enjoy the finest blessings in His eternal Kingdom ([Luke 22:18](#)).

A few things that can bring you joy:

Being in His presence	Mat 28:9 and Rev 19:7
Hearing His Words	John 17:13 and Jer 15:16
Doing His will	Mat 5:1-12 and Psa 40:8
Trusting Him	Rom 15:13 and Psa 94:19

Application Exercise: Joyful

- Make a list of things that bring you joy.
- How many of the items on your list relate to your relationship with God?

2-Healing the Official's Son

Icebreaker: What Tests My Faith?



What kinds of things test your faith? How can those challenges improve your relationship with God (**2Cor12:9**)?

Questions for Study or Discussion

- Jesus noted that the Jews required signs and wonders to believe (**John 4:46-48**). What did Jesus do to help the nobleman believe (**John 4:49-50**)? What does Jesus do that helps you believe?
- What did the nobleman do that demonstrated his faith? What do you do to demonstrate your faith (**John 4:50**)?
- Which do you think was the greater miracle?
 - healing of the child
 - the man believing Jesus without seeing the healing
- How did the nobleman's confident faith affect other people (**John 4:53**)? In what way does your faith affect other people?
- What does it take to grow from believing by seeing Him do something to absolute trust in who He is?

Dig a Little Deeper: Faith Check

Where do you see yourself on the following faith progression?

- I believe in the power of Jesus ([John 4:47](#)) 
- I have faith in His Word ([John 4:50](#)) 
- I have absolute faith in Jesus ([John 4:53](#))

Application Exercise: My Faith

Pray telling God where you see yourself on the above faith progression. Ask Him to show you in His Word where you are demonstrating faith and where you need to lean more on Him.

3-Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

Icebreaker: Wilderness

Make a list of words to describe a wilderness. Discuss times in your life when you've felt as though you were in a wilderness.

Questions for Study or Discussion

- In [Isaiah 35:3-6](#), what did Isaiah prophesy about the Messiah?
- In what way did the disabled man respond when Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed ([John 5:6-7](#))? Discuss how this is similar to the way some unbelievers respond to the gospel.
- Describe what Jesus did to heal the man ([John 5:8](#)).
- The man didn't know who healed him. Considering that Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath, what do you think was the purpose of the miracle ([John 5:9-13](#))?
- The man's outward healing came at the pool. He trusted and obeyed. The man's inward healing came when Jesus found him later at the temple ([John 5:14-15](#)). What would have happened to the man if he had not accepted Christ as his Savior ([Mat 12:43-45](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: 38 Years

<i>Old Testament: Physical</i>	<i>New Testament: Spiritual</i>
The Jewish nation had wandered in the wilderness 38 years (Deu 2:14).	The disabled man had been ill for 38 years waiting for a cure (John 5:5 and John 5:14).

In what way does Israel's wandering picture the disabled man's waiting? How does physical wandering and waiting picture spiritual seeking?

Application Exercise: Water in the Wilderness

Think about where you are now, physically and spiritually. If you are in the wilderness, look to Jesus for a drink (**John 7:37-38**). Pray, letting Him know you depend on Him to quench your thirst.

4-Feeding the 5,000

Icebreaker: Thank You for Our Food

According to Jewish tradition, the words Jesus spoke to bless the meal were,

“Blessed art Thou, Jehovah God, King of the world, who causes to come forth, bread from the earth.”

Using that as a model, write a prayer that acknowledges God as the provider of our food and that thanks Him for who He is.

Questions for Study or Discussion

The Problem: Thousands of hungry people have been following you. They need food. What do you do?

Possible Solutions:

1. **Get rid of the problem** by telling them to leave (**Mark 6:36**). How is the ‘tell them to leave’ solution like sending away people who desperately search for meaning in their lives? In what ways could we be guilty of sending away people?
2. **Raise money** (**John 6:5-7**). In what way was Jesus testing Philip’s faith? Tell one another about times when money was not the answer to your problems.
3. **Bring what you have** (**John 6:8-14**). If you saw thousands of hungry people and found 2 small fish and 5 small loaves, would you:
 - Keep what you had, knowing it would not be enough?
 - Give what you had and trust God for the rest?In what areas of your life do you give it all to Jesus and let Him multiply it?

Dig a Little Deeper: True Bread of God

- What was the issue Jesus had with the people who were seeking Him in [John 6:22-27](#)?
- According to Jesus, what is the work of God ([John 6:28-29](#))?
- What is the true bread of heaven ([John 6:32-35](#))?

Application Exercise: What Do I Have?

- Make a list of what you have.
- Pray through the list with thankfulness, asking God how He wants you to use what He has given you.

5-Walking on Water

Icebreaker: Storms

Describe the destruction you have seen from a storm. Why would you choose to live in a place that had frequent tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, or floods?

Questions for Study or Discussion

- Often we get a test after a lesson. The feeding of 5,000 was a lesson. The storm was a test (**John 6:18**).
 - ▶ What is the best way to react to storms in our lives?
 - ▶ What can we learn from storms in our lives?

- Why were they afraid when they saw Jesus walking on water and coming toward them (**John 6:19**)? Discuss how we may sometimes not recognize Jesus approaching in a storm.

- What happened immediately after they received Jesus into the ship (**John 6:21**)? Think of examples of what it means to welcome Him into the ship of your life.

- Many people want Jesus as Healer, Provider or Rescuer (**John 6:26**). Fewer people want Him as Savior and Lord (**John 5:40**). Why do you want Jesus?

Dig a Little Deeper: I AM

Ponder the “I AM” sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John.

<i>Saying</i>	<i>Reference</i>
I am the Bread of Life	John 6:35
I am the Light of the World	John 8:12
I am the Door of the Sheep	John 10:7
I am the Good Shepherd	John 10:11-14
I am the Resurrection and the Life	John 11:25
I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life	John 14:6
I am the True Vine	John 15:1-5

Application Exercise: Who Is He to You?

Considering the “I AM” sayings, who is Jesus to you?
Tell Jesus who He is to you. Here are ideas for doing that:

- Talk to Him aloud, telling Him who He is to you.
- Write Him a letter or poem telling Him who He is to you.
- Sing several songs that express who He is to you.
- Create a work of art that expresses who He is to you.

6-Healing the Man Born Blind

Icebreaker: Recovery

Give examples of injuries you recovered from that were painful, costly, or embarrassing.

Questions for Study or Discussion

- Why was the man born blind (**John 9:1-5**)? How can we open ourselves to God's influences so that trials in our lives can demonstrate His work?
- What did the neighbors and Pharisees want to know about the blind man's healing (**John 9:10**, **John 9:15**, **John 9:19**, and **John 9:26**)? Why do you think people were more interested in how the miracle happened than in who performed it?
- The Pharisees did not realize that Jesus offered something greater than the Sabbath. What did Jesus offer (**Mat 11:28-30**)?
- What one thing did the man born blind know about the restoring of his sight (**John 9:25**)? Of the things Jesus has done for you, which ones do you firmly state when others ask?
- It is not enough to believe He is "a man called Jesus," "a prophet," or a "man of God." At what point did the man born blind get saved (**John 9:35-38**)? Share your faith stories of how you came to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

Dig a Little Deeper: Pool of Siloam

And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. (John 9:7, NKJV)

Jesus told the blind man to wash in the pool of Siloam. Siloam means Sent. When the man washed in the pool, he began to see.

- Jesus has anointed our eyes. He tells us to go to the pool of Siloam, wash in the waters, and receive sight. Washing often in His Word will help us see things as He does rather than as the world does.
- This is also a picture of "sent ones" washing people in the Word of God to open their eyes.

Application Exercise: Being the Pool of Siloam

Who around you is spiritually blind? Put their names on a list. Next to each one, write something you can do to reflect Christ's light and love to them.

7-Raising Lazarus from the Dead

Icebreaker: What Were They Thinking?

Discuss times when a leader made a decision that did not make sense, but later you understood the reasons for the decision.

Questions for Study or Discussion

- Why did Jesus say it was good that He had not been there when Lazarus fell ill ([John 11:14-15](#))? In what way did waiting a few days add authenticity to the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead?
- By the time the messenger returned to Martha and Mary with Jesus' reply, Lazarus was dead ([John 11:17](#)). If your loved one had died, and you got the message Jesus gave in [John 11:4](#), how do you think you would react?
- Which vantage point (past, future, present) most resonates with you and why?
 - Past: Jesus could have prevented Lazarus from dying ([John 11:37](#)).
 - Future: Jesus will resurrect His followers in the last day ([John 5:28-29](#)).
 - Present: Jesus is the resurrection and life ([John 11:25](#)).

What were Martha's vantage points when she spoke of her faith in Jesus ([John 11:21-27](#))?

- Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead. Why did He weep ([John 11:33-36](#) and [Isa 53:3](#))?

Dig a Little Deeper: Compare Lazarus to Christ-Followers

Consider the similarities between what Jesus did for Lazarus and what He does for those who accept Him as Lord and Savior.

<i>Lazarus</i>	<i>Those Accepting Christ</i>
Raised him from the dead.	Lifted them out of the graveyard of sin (John 5:24)
Freed him from his graveclothes	Gave them new liberty in Christ (Rom 8:1-6)
Seated him at His table (John 12:2)	Seated them with Him in heaven to enjoy spiritual food (Eph 2:6)

Application Exercise: For Your Good

Think of times when you thought God had not answered your prayers or gave you an answer you did not want. When has He used difficult circumstances to mature you and to bring Himself glory ([Rom 8:28](#))?

8-Rising from the Dead

Icebreaker: Roving Reporter

Have one person in your group play a roving reporter. Have the reporter interview the other group members about seeing the resurrected Christ. Ask each member to pretend to be one of the people who saw the resurrected Christ. This can be a person the Bible names or one of the many unnamed persons.

Questions for Study or Discussion

- At what point did Mary recognize the risen Christ ([John 20:14-16](#) and [John 10:3](#))? What can put us in a position to hear Him call our name?
- Although Mary could not transfer her experience of seeing the risen Christ, she was able to speak the words He told her to speak ([John 20:17-18](#)). In what way is evidence limited, compared to God's Word ([Rom 10:17](#))?
- To help the disciples move from fear to courage, what did Jesus say and do ([John 20:19-22](#))? What call to action did Jesus give them in [John 20:21](#)? How does this call to action apply to us today?
- Before Thomas called Jesus his Lord and his God, what happened ([John 20:26-29](#))? Do you call Jesus your Lord and your God? What happened before you could say that?

Dig a Little Deeper: Reacting to the Resurrected Christ

Consider people's reaction to realizing that Jesus was resurrected.

<i>Change from:</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Emphasis</i>	<i>Scripture</i>
tears to joy	Mary Magdalene	LOVE	John 20:1-18
fear to courage	10 disciples	HOPE	John 20:19-23
doubt to assurance	Thomas	FAITH	John 20:24-31

Describe your reaction when you realized that Jesus rose from the dead.

Application Exercise: Believing That Jesus is the Christ

Consider the miracles (signs) that we explored in this study. For you, which ones are of most help in believing that Jesus is the Christ? Pick one that is especially meaningful to you. Use it as inspiration to do one of the following:

- Write a letter of appreciation to Christ. Read the letter aloud to Him.
- Tell someone about the miracle and how it is meaningful to you.
- Write a song about how thoughts of the miracle affect you. Sing it to someone.