

5. Looking at the DIGMAN acronym, which reason for avoiding seeking God resonates with you the most?

6. What are ways we allow the ordinariness of our lives distract us from miracles in our midst?

7. What dangers are inherent in expecting God to give you miracles?

8. What are practices or disciplines that can remind you of the power of the greatest miracle of all?

**“Who Do You Say I Am?”
(A Series on Matthew 14-17)**

“Searching for a Miracle”

Matthew 14:13-21

Big Miracles

Imagine going through a big loss or failure and a group of people came to you, expecting you to do something for _____.

Most of us would lash out, explain our need for time away, or begrudgingly talk to whoever interrupted our retreat. Jesus had _____. His compassion led to big miracles.

Reasons we avoid seeking God:

- D _____
- I _____
- G _____
- Minimize our _____
- A _____
- Not worth our _____

When we are stuck - when our imagination, strength, or willpower leave us with no answers - that’s the exact place God can _____ in big and unexpected ways.

If you want to see God do big miracles, cultivate and grow your _____ life.

But be ready for God to work in his wisdom, timing, and ways. Prayer opens our _____ to recognize it.

Ordinary Miracles

How many people _____ a miracle through an ordinary lunch?

Do we expect grand gestures from God, but miss his movements, simply because of the _____ of our lives?

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



“You would think that believing that Jesus is God among us would be the hardest thing. It is not. It turns out that the hardest thing is to believe that God's work - this dazzling creation, this astonishing salvation, this cascade of blessings - is all being worked out in and under the conditions of our humanity: at picnics and around dinner tables, in conversations and while walking along roads, in puzzled questions and homely stories, with blind beggars and suppurating lepers, at weddings and funerals. Everything that Jesus does and says takes place within the limits and conditions of our humanity. No fireworks. No special effects. Yes, there are miracles, plenty of them. But because for the most part they are so much a part of the fabric of everyday life, very few notice. The miraculousness of miracle is obscured by the familiarity of the setting, the ordinariness of the people involved.” (Eugene Peterson)

Not every interaction will result in the multiplying of your loaves and fishes or healing of sickness. But if that's all you expect, you'll miss out on the _____ of God in the small, seemingly insignificant parts of life.

Expecting God to move apart from his will leaves us chasing God for what he can do, rather than _____ in who he is.

The Greatest Miracle

It's not a miracle he died. All humans die. The miracle was that he didn't _____ dead.

Ephesians 2: ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

You were seen, loved, and _____ before you even took a breath.

Psalms 139: ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Share your experiences with miracles; big, ordinary, or even the absence of them.
3. Read Matthew 14:13-21. Looking at the context of the story - place, situation, needs, and pressures - who were the people involved and how do they respond to their individual situations?
4. How does the way Jesus responds, when his back is against the wall, compare to how you respond when tragedy and absurdity occur in your life?