



# Faith

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# Focus



*for  
Teens*

*Sunday  
School  
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God  
Writer: Allen Thompson

## Messiah's Miracles

Part One – July 8, 2018

Lesson – “Water into Wine”

Scriptures – Jn. 2:1-11

### Introduction to lesson

Jesus' miracles are all unexplainable. His first and last miracles are impossible to explain. There is and never will be an explanation that will satisfy man or science. It was undoubtedly on purpose. Jesus wanted to make sure that God would receive all the credit. Remember, Jesus' authority is directed by God. Thus nothing Jesus did could be performed without the permission of the Father. Water into wine is impossible. How do you change the molecular substance of water to make wine? Producing wine requires time. Grapes are grown, harvested, and the juice is squeezed from the sweet fruit. But Jesus produced wine from water in a moment of time. How did Jesus do this? We don't know; but we do know that the One who created all things has the power to change water into wine.

**Key Verse: “This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him” (Jn. 2:11).**

### Questions to Discuss:

- + Read Jn. 2:1-11. What would you think of a wedding you attended, and it ran out of food and drink? Would you stay?
- + Discuss the meaning of this miracle. What is so significant in turning one substance into another?
- + What does the water into wine represent to us?

### Think about it:

Today it is hard to imagine running out of anything and being unable to replace it. Their weddings could last up to seven days, and they required an adequate substance to make it to the end. The cheap wine was always given at the end. It should be noted that wine is also grape juice, but they share the same name. So the wine was not indicating a drunken party. We should understand that Jesus was asked to help out a family and a community of people at this wedding. He had the authority to help and to supply their need. He has all authority to meet our needs today. When we think about Jesus' turning water into wine, we may ask, “How?” Of course, it is the nature of men to question, but as Christians we should not be filled with questions, but rather filled with faith. Rather than questioning the miracle or the means of fulfilling it, we should rejoice in the power of God. For how can we pray and believe God for such miracles today, if our minds dwell on questions and doubts? If we are Christians, then we must be "...confident before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments..." (1 Jn. 3:21-22). We should be less concerned about explaining the miracle, and more focused on God's power working in our lives today. Miracles are just that – Miracles. They don't need to be explained, but rather embraced by faith.

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# Messiah's Miracles

Part One – July 15, 2018

Lesson – “The Miraculous Catch”

Scriptures – Luke 5:1-11

## Introduction to lesson

This is not a story about Doug Flute's pass against Miami in 1984. No, this is a story about a miracle that defies all understanding. Our God is truly amazing. He continues to defy all understanding by making absolutely anything and everything out of nothing. God can command the waters to rise and fall, the fish to come, birds to feed, lions to tame, donkeys to speak, rain to fall, and plants to wither or grow fruit. In today's story, Peter was like so many of us; his obedience to Christ was tested by his human reasoning. Peter had fished (toiled) all night with no luck. They finally returned and were mending their nets for the next day when Jesus arrived. When Jesus asked Peter to push out further, Peter spoke with a mindset of “why.” Why would a carpenter tell a fisherman how to fish? But Peter obeyed the Lord and witnessed a miraculous catch. As a result, he was radically changed.

**Key Verse:** “And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net” (Lu. 5:5).

## Questions to Discuss:

Read Luke 5:1-11. Then answer the following questions.

- ✚ What would you have done if you were Peter?
- ✚ Can you name the three feats of obedience by Peter?
- ✚ How far are you willing to go in following Jesus?

## Think about it:

God can do miracles; but do we believe he will? Our human reasoning can hinder our faith and undermine our ability to receive from God. Consider Peter. He was a fisherman by trade. Fishing was not his hobby, but it was his business. The mending and washing of their nets were the finish of a long day of hard work. On this particular occasion, they were unsuccessful; and no fish meant no money. Then Jesus came along and wanted to use Peter's boat. The use of Peter's boat was an example of his obedience and respect for Jesus. However, pushing out into the deep was asking a little too much. He explained that they already had performed this feat and failed. After all, Jesus was a carpenter, not a fisherman. Nevertheless, Peter again obeyed the Lord, launching out and letting down the net. No doubt, his expectations were low. However, when you are obedient to Christ things happen. The net did not catch a few fish, but rather too many. The abundance of the catch was too much for any fisherman. Their net broke, and when another boat came to help, both boats were filled with fish until the boats began to sink. No doubt, this was a miraculous catch unlike any Peter had never seen. He knew it was supernatural. This carpenter was more than a carpenter. He spoke with God's authority and did God's mighty works. In verse 8, Peter fell down before Jesus, and he confessed his sin. He was a changed man. He was ready to obey the Lord's call and to follow Jesus!

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## Messiah's Miracles

Part One – July 22, 2018

Lesson – “Calming the Storm”

Scriptures – Mk. 4:35-41

### Introduction to lesson

Last week's lesson focused on a miracle that took place on a boat in the sea. In today's lesson, we look at another miracle on a boat in the sea. At least four of Jesus' disciples (Peter, Andrew, James, and John) were fishermen by trade. They knew all about storms on the sea of Galilee. As they were crossing the sea, they were caught in a severe storm that left them paralyzed in fear. Have you ever been in a severe storm that made you fearful? Although it may seem like an eternity, storms don't last forever – they are only a short period of confusion and disorder. Sadly, although beautiful days far outnumber the bad, we often tend to remember the bad days. However, after every storm comes peace. We need to focus on the peace. No matter how bad the storms become, we know the One who has the power to calm the storm and to speak peace into our lives!

**Key Verse: “And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm” (Mk. 4:39).**

### Questions to Discuss:

Read Mark 4:35-41, and answer the following.

- ✚ What is the purpose of this story?
- ✚ What would be your action: as calm as Jesus, or panicking with the disciples?
- ✚ Can God calm all storms in our lives?

### Think about it:

During World War II, General Dwight D. Eisenhower faced a decision among the worst of storms. The landing for D-Day was upon him, but he had already canceled twice and sat before his generals the decision to go or to postpone. The weather was against the allies; the storm was used to promote a time of rest for Germany. The belief was that the storm was a stumbling block for the allies, and they did not have the faith to launch the attack. Like that day with Christ on the Sea of Galilee, the disciples set sail when the weather was good. They were not expecting a bad storm. But life holds unexpected changes when suddenly unforeseen obstacles become overwhelming. What will you do? On that night, Eisenhower looked at the storms and decided that the victory was just beyond it. The troops were sent (including the writer's grandfather) on ships during high tide and rain. But they went in hope of victory. Actually, it was the weather that helped to win the war. What seemed to be against them worked in their favor. Not fearing an invasion, the Germans left their post. The weather hid the ships until they reached the shore. Truly, our God uses storms of many shapes and sizes to help us exercise our faith in him, so that others can see Jesus. Our faith in him transforms us and lifts us above the storms of this life. Always remember that God is all powerful – “even the wind and the sea obey him” (Mk. 4:41).

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## Messiah's Miracles

Part One – July 29, 2018

Lesson – “Casting out Devils”

Scriptures – Luke 8:26-39

### Introduction to lesson

The disciples had just arrived following a turbulent journey by sea. As they came from the boat onto land, a wild man met Jesus. He was possessed by many demons. He tormented the Gadarenes by his power and authority; however, his authority had a very short leash. When Jesus came before him, he had no choice but to bow down to Christ and state, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me" (Lu. 8:28). Suddenly, the tormenter was now being tormented, not by hate but by love. This same man who had a legion of demons was subject to the true power and authority of Jesus Christ. Jesus commanded the demons to come out. As we see in today's Bible lesson, the devils had to obey Christ's command.

**Key Verse:** “Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid” (Luke 8:35).

### Questions to Discuss:

Read Luke 8:26-39 and answer the following.

- ✚ What is the purpose of the story?
- ✚ How can we relate this to our spiritual walk?
- ✚ Why did the demon-possessed man fall on his face?
- ✚ What is so special about verses 34-36?

### Think about it:

This story has two perspectives that should be considered. First, we read about the spiritual transformation of the possessed man and how he became a great evangelist. We rejoice over the miraculous deliverance of this man who was bound by the enemy. But there is another side to the story. Rather than rejoicing over the salvation of the Lord, the Gadarenes were fearful. They failed to see the possessed man as a child of God, set free, and sitting at the feet of Jesus (v. 35). Instead of accepting God's deliverance and desiring the Lord to continue to move within the region, they wanted Jesus to leave. Didn't the people want to see the salvation of the Lord? Sadly, Jesus departed from them; but he left his witness behind. This man wanted to depart with Jesus and follow him, but the Lord sent him back to his own people to testify of God's delivering power (vv. 38-39). Without a doubt, there is no greater miracle than when we are delivered from the power of sin. Like the man in today's story, we should be faithful to tell others about God's delivering power in our lives.

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