

Wonderful Things

The Miracles of Jesus

ABOUT THIS READING PLAN

This reading plan is designed to help you rediscover the awe and wonder of Jesus through the study of His miracles. Each day's reading includes: a passage of Scripture, thoughts to consider and reflect on to process the biblical reading more intentionally.

Check out graceclarksville.com/giw for additional resources, and follow us on Instagram and Facebook [@GraceClarksville](https://www.facebook.com/GraceClarksville)

Some of the study material in this guide was adapted from *Mark for Everyone* by N.T. Wright, *Enduring Word Commentary* by David Guzik, *Miracles* by C.S. Lewis, *The Wonder-Working God* by Jared C. Wilson, *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright, *Jesus and the Gospels* by Craig Blomberg, and *NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible*.

WHAT IS LENT?

Traditionally, Lent is the 40-day period leading to Resurrection Sunday, during which believers remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This season often involves spiritual disciplines such as prayer, scripture reflection, and fasting, prompting introspection, repentance, and personal growth. Many Christians view Lent as a time to give something up to emphasize their need for Jesus, reflecting on His ultimate sacrifice through acts of self-denial.

Fasting is seen as a historical practice of abstaining from something good to seek something better—drawing us closer to the Lord. As you consider what to fast from between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, prayerfully ask God to reveal strongholds in your life. This could be things like abstaining from specific foods, social media, or unnecessary spending. Observing Lent is counter-cultural, encouraging us to prioritize our spiritual needs over societal pressures.

So what might that look like for you to practice self-control in a specific area for the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?

G.K. Chesterton said, *"a dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it."*

Lent invites us to slow down, reflect, and confront our brokenness while foreshadowing Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. Each miracle in the Book of Mark brings us closer to understanding why He came, culminating in the cross where His identity is fully revealed.

As you spend the next seven weeks in God's Word, may you rediscover the beauty of Jesus. The miracles offer a perfect lens to focus on His work, guiding us as we prepare for Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday.

Prayers & Reflections

Wonderful Things: The Miracles of Jesus

BEFORE YOU READ GOD'S WORD TODAY, SEEK HIS HELP WITH THESE 5 PRAYERS

1. God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
2. God, let any knowledge I gain help me love You and others more and not puff me up.
3. God, help me see something new about You I've never seen before.
4. God, correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.
5. God, direct my steps according to Your Word.

** Prayers from The Bible Recap Reading Plan by Tara-Leigh Cobble **

TIPS FOR APPROACHING SCRIPTURE

- Pray before you read (use the prayers above)
- Read the words in proper context, taking into consideration when it was written, to whom it was written, and what was happening when it was written (a good study bible is helpful)
- Look for God's character and faithfulness to His people
- Look for themes that point to Jesus
- Look for anything repetitive, unusual, confusing, hopeful, comforting, or challenging

Weekly Checklist

Wonderful Things: The Miracles of Jesus

WEEK ONE

JESUS HEALS AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

- Day 1 - Mark 1:21-28
- Day 2 - Mark 1:21-28, Luke 4:31-37
- Day 3 - Mark 1:23-26, Matthew 4:1-11
- Day 4 - Mark 1:23-26, Colossians 2:13-15
- Day 5 - Mark 1:21-28
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK TWO

JESUS HEALS A LEPER

- Day 1 - Mark 1:40-45
- Day 2 - Mark 1:40-45, Isaiah 53:3-5
- Day 3 - Mark 1:40-45, Leviticus 13:45-46; 14:1-8
- Day 4 - Mark 1:43-45, Mark 7:36-37, Psalm 72
- Day 5 - Mark 1:40-45, Hebrews 4:14-16
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK THREE

JESUS HEALS A PARALYTIC

- Day 1 - Mark 2:1-12
- Day 2 - Mark 2:1-5, Matthew 7:7-8, James 1:12
- Day 3 - Mark 2:1-5
- Day 4 - Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26
- Day 5 - Mark 2:1-12, Matthew 9:1-8
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK FOUR

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

- Day 1 - Mark 4:30-41
- Day 2 - Mark 4:35-41, Daniel 3:16-18, 2 Chronicles 20:12, John 16:31-33
- Day 3 - Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 46
- Day 4 - Mark 4:35-41, Job 38:1-11, Psalm 104
- Day 5 - Mark 4:35-41, Isaiah 43:1-3, Hebrews 11:1
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK FIVE

JESUS HEALS JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

- Day 1 - Mark 5:21-24 and 35-43
- Day 2 - Mark 5:21-43
- Day 3 - Mark 5:21-24, Mark 2:17
- Day 4 - Mark 5:21-43, John 11:1-44
- Day 5 - Mark 5:21-24, 35-43, John 11:35, Mark 1:41, Matthew 9:36, 10:29-31, Psalm 8:4
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day

WEEK SIX

JESUS HEALS A WOMAN WITH AN ISSUE OF BLOOD

- Day 1 - Mark 5:21-36
- Day 2 - Mark 5:21-34, Psalm 130, Hebrews 13:6-8
- Day 3 - Mark 5:25-34, Psalm 73
- Day 4 - Mark 5:33, Psalm 34, Romans 4:16-25
- Day 5 - Mark 5:25-34; Psalm 147:1-11
- Day 6 - Reflection Day
- Day 7 - Rest Day/Palm Sunday

WEEK SEVEN

JESUS HEALS A BOY WHO IS DEAF AND MUTE

- Day 1 - Mark 9:14-29
- Day 2 - Mark 9:14-29, Mark 3:14-15, Mark 6:7, 12-13
- Day 3 - Mark 9:14-29
- Day 4 - Mark 9:14-29, Mark 11:1-11
- Day 5 - Good Friday - Mark 8:31-35, Mark 14:3-9, Mark 15
- Day 6 - Reflection Day - Mark 15:42-47
- Day 7 - Resurrection Sunday - Mark 16:1-8

Wonderful Things

An Introduction to the Miracles of Jesus

There is something in us that longs to experience something spectacular and full of wonder. Something that catches us off guard by its beauty, glory, and power, that we know does not originate with us. We get glimpses of this when we see sunrises, sunsets, oceans, and mountains.

The Gospels tell the story of Jesus in many ways through teachings, parables, and confrontations, but the miracles invite us into something deeper. They are moments of awe and wonder, where we get glimpses of heaven here on earth, the supernatural breaks in, and ordinary people find themselves face to face with the living God.

In his book, *Miracles*, C.S. Lewis reminds us that miracles are not violations of reality, but revelations of it. In *Miracles*, he argues that a miracle is not God interrupting nature, but God revealing what nature truly belongs to.

In other words, miracles are signs. They are not party tricks designed to coerce belief. They are moments when the curtain is pulled back and we see who Jesus truly is and what kind of kingdom He brings. Miracles are intended to awaken us to a reality that we might be missing. Miracles confront our assumptions. They stretch our imagination. They invite us to reconsider what is possible.

Mark's Gospel tells us again and again that people were "amazed," "astonished," and "filled with fear." Not fear as terror, but fear as reverence. The kind of fear that recognizes, this is no ordinary man.

In his book, *Wonder-Working God*, Jared Wilson reminds us that wonder is not optional to faith, it is essential. Wonder is the posture that allows us to receive revelation rather than try to control it. A heart that has lost its capacity for wonder will struggle to recognize God when He moves.

Wonder does not deny questions or ignore suffering. Wonder simply says, "What if God is greater than the boxes I try to fit him in?"

WHY STUDY JESUS' MIRACLES THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Many people today struggle to believe that God still works in miraculous ways. Scripture presents miracles not as distant spectacles meant to impress, but as signs of a God who chooses to draw near. As N. T. Wright reminds us, the "*deeds of power*" in the Gospels are not interruptions by an absent God, but acts of a present one. With the coming of Jesus, Wright asserts, "*a new age had begun in which the living God was going to do new things in the world,*" a promise that extends not only to those who first heard Him but also to "*everyone who is far away.*" This promise applies to us today as believers: we have a living God who is present in our everyday lives. As Craig Blomberg observes, Jesus' miracles display both God's power and His good character. They reveal His authority and power, as well as His deep love, attention, and care for His creation.

The Gospel of Mark is a particularly helpful place to study Jesus' miracles because Mark uses them to reveal who Jesus is and to provoke a response from those who witness them. Likely the earliest Gospel written, Mark presents Jesus exercising authority over demons, disease, nature, and even death while restoring dignity, calming chaos, and bringing hope to those on the margins. Rather than

using miracles to force belief, Mark depicts witnesses as amazed yet confused and fearful. These miracles reveal their inner struggles and encourage the question:

Would you follow Jesus even without fully understanding His plan?

The Gospel of Mark is shaped by what scholars call the “Messianic Secret,” a pattern in which Jesus repeatedly tells people to remain silent about His identity, even after witnessing His miraculous power. Jesus’ miracles point to His divine authority, but they also prepare the way for the surprising truth that the powerful Son of God is also the Suffering Servant. Especially during Lent and Holy Week, these miracle stories function as signposts leading us toward the cross. As we study them, we will encounter fear, desperation, isolation, and amazement throughout these accounts, emphasizing that the miracles cultivate a holy wonder about who Jesus is and how He meets ordinary people with His extraordinary grace.

THE MIRACLES WE WILL STUDY:

In this study, we will walk with Jesus through moments where His authority, compassion, and power are revealed:

- Jesus Heals an Unclean Spirit - *Mark 1:23-28*
- Jesus Heals a Leper - *Mark 1:40-45*
- Jesus Heals a Paralytic - *Mark 2:1-12*
- Jesus Calms the Storm - *Mark 4:35-41*
- Jesus Raises Jairus’ Daughter - *Mark 5:21-24 and 35-43*
- Jesus Heals a Woman with an Issue of Blood - *Mark 5:25-34*
- Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Boy - *Mark 9:14-29*

These are not disconnected stories. They lead us to the final miracle, the one that redefines everything, Jesus’ Resurrection in Mark 16. **Our hope for this study is that you will recapture a genuine wonder for Jesus as The One with ultimate authority to call out demons, forgive sins, bring peace to chaos, conquer death, and bring new life.**

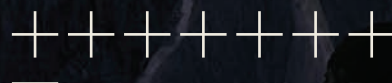
This study is not primarily about explaining miracles away or even proving them, but about encountering the Miracle Worker. As we begin, the invitation is simple: Come curious. Come honest. Come expectant. Because when Jesus reveals Himself, awe and wonder are never the end. They are just the beginning.

WEEK 1

THE WONDER OF AUTHORITY

JESUS HEALS AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

"The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority..." -Mark 1:22



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: *Mark 1:21-28*

INTRODUCTION

This week, you begin a great study. This study will be great, not because of the devotional content of the various authors, but because it is the study of Jesus' miraculous works. Many of us have a basic knowledge and perhaps even a basic admiration for the miracles of Jesus, but we often lack a true understanding and depth of these miracles. The miracles of Jesus are meant to be rocket fuel for our faith. As we read of them, as we even experience them (because yes, these miraculous works are still available to us today), we should be marked by a holy amazement. We should be drawn in with a divine curiosity. We should be found in wonder at the power and authority of the Lord.

Today, you begin a seven-week journey through seven specific miracles of Jesus. Today, hopefully, you begin a journey towards awakening your hearts to the wonder, amazement, and power that our Savior possesses and expresses through us, His creation. As you begin this study, specifically this week, where you will look at the authority of Jesus through His healing words at the removal of an unclean spirit, take time to simply reflect upon the true power of Jesus, and ask Him to help you find a greater sense of wonder in who He is and His miraculous authority.

Reflection

Where do you feel you lack awe and wonder of the Lord? Why? What do you hope the Lord will bring to your heart and faith through this study?

End your time in intentional prayer and ask God specifically to open your eyes and heart towards His miraculous works.

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: *Mark 1:21-22, Luke 4:31-37*

TEACHING AUTHORITY

Do you find it significant that before we read of Jesus' miracle here, we are first introduced to the authority of Jesus' words? It's not accidental. The authors of the gospels were not simply writing biographies and recollections of Jesus; they were also seeking to map out His character, theology, and divinity. They knew these words would be studied in great detail for many, many years to come by many different people and cultures. The authors, therefore, even in this short passage about the healing of a man's unclean spirit, are pointing out the divinity of Jesus.

This miraculous account appears in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. Both deliberately highlight that Jesus has authority. Before He performs one miraculous work, the authors want the reader to understand that the very words of Jesus have, and continue to have, power and authority over life, especially over those who hear them.

This sets the stage for what Jesus is about to do here and, ultimately, for what He will accomplish on the cross. Jesus teaches with unparalleled authority because He is the ultimate authority. His words carry power because through them, His authority is exercised. That authority extends over our lives, bodies, minds, hearts, and souls. He has authority over what we say, do, think, and feel because He alone has the power to define what is good and right.

How does He exercise this authority? He performs miraculous works to bring about restoration. This is the same work He is doing in and around us each day. He is still in the miraculous restoration business in and around us each day. The question is do we see it?

Reflection

What is your relationship to authority? Are you a person in a position of authority? Where are you subject to authority? How do you feel about this? For most of us, we exercise some, often considerable, authority over our lives, and when we feel subject to someone else's authority, we experience tension. To truly believe and follow Christ is to fervently submit to the Lord. It is the work of surrender, to relent, willingly, authority over to the Lord. To believe is to see and know that He is the ultimate authority and to respond to that authority.

As you end your time today, reflect on the authority of the Lord and seek to release your grasp on authority. Continue in this work this week in order to open yourself more fully to the amazement of what God does with this authority.

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 1:23-26, Matthew 4:1-11*

GODLY AUTHORITY

Before Jesus even completes the miraculous healing of removing this unclean spirit, He has demonstrated His great power. He has brought to light His greatest miracle, His power and authority to free the world from the ravages of the enemy, sin, and death. Jesus is demonstrating His authority over the cosmic powers and war at work here. Often we miss this work that is being done. It's an unseen war but it is taking place all the time. It is a great conflict in an unseen realm that Jesus has full authority over. It's vital we open our eyes to this wonderful work because it reminds our hearts that God has authority over both the seen and unseen of our lives.

Jesus is clarifying that through Him and Him alone, the power of the enemy is already defeated. (Romans 16:20) This isn't the first time we've seen Jesus prove this work either. Before He even begins His work of public ministry, we are given this private battle that takes place between Him and the enemy. Jesus overcomes the temptations and deceptions of the enemy, Satan, and proves to the enemy that his walking papers have already been issued and his work against the soul of man has already been predetermined and defeated. Jesus simply has to dot the i's and cross the t's of handing Himself over in love as our eternal sacrifice. This is authority. The authority of Jesus looks and says, "The work is already being done, and this enemy has no authority here anymore, because I am here."

Reflection

Where do you need to be reminded of this kind of authority, that only Jesus possesses, in your life today? How can you begin to believe and find faith, awe, and amazement in this power and authority that the Lord has, and continues, to demonstrate for us?

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: *Mark 1:23-26, Colossians 2:13-15*

HEALING AUTHORITY

Jesus has shown His power and authority through speaking dominion over this demon spirit that has possessed this man. Now we see the healing. We see the unclean spirit removed. This is often what we attribute as the great miracle here, and it is a miracle, but don't lose sight of the fact that the greatest part of this miracle was demonstrated in what we studied yesterday, that Jesus has authority, power, and is already publicly overcoming the powers of the enemy, sin, and death. The miraculous healing here is a sign of this cosmic spiritual work that is being done. Knowing this, though, let's be reminded and encouraged by this healing.

One of the things that often draws our attention to the miracles of Jesus, just as it did during Jesus' ministry on earth, is the amazement and wonder that come with seeing someone healed. A person, a friend, a co-worker, a family member, a neighbor, approaches, is brought, or is visited by Jesus. They lie, stand, limp, crawl, are lowered to Him in a specific condition, and, after a brief word, a soft touch, a powerful voice, they are in a completely different state. They stand, they jump, they stare wide-eyed and seeing, they are made physically whole and new again. There is no other word that better describes this kind of power and wonder than miraculous.

Jesus has authority over all. He proves His authority in His teaching and His words. He proves His authority over the cosmic forces, which naturally would imply He has authority over all things, but He doesn't simply ask those around to take His word for it; He shows it. He heals and restores the condition of this person's broken, corrupted, unclean, possessed spirit. They are healed. They are restored to their original God-created and intended state. This is the healing work that Jesus is performing in us.

Jesus continues to work, heal, and perform miracles in us today. Don't lose sight of the fact that these are the miracles we most often consider the most awe-inspiring: the physical healings.

More to come on this tomorrow as we end the week.

Reflection

Take a minute and write down some prayer requests. Are you praying for someone's healing? Is there someone who needs to see a miracle? Who is someone you're praying God shows a miracle to? Take some time to specifically pray for this person or persons. Continue to check in with them over the next few days and weeks, and continue to journal the prayer requests and praises of how God answers them.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: *Mark 1:21-28*

AWE AND WONDER

This week, we've studied Jesus' miraculous authority, and it is clear: He has power over spirit, soul, and creation, and therefore, over our bodies as well. In fact, in a healing we will examine in week three, He makes this very point.

This raises an important question: if we truly believe Jesus can heal our souls, why do we hesitate to trust Him with miraculous works of physical healing today? We read about the reaction of the people who witnessed the healing of the unclean spirit: "Amazement gripped the audience" (v. 27). They were struck by who Jesus was and what He could do.

The challenge for us is living in that same wonder. Too often, we see miracles as hidden or only spiritual. Yet Jesus is still a God of miracles, actively working in the world. We can suffer from "miracle amnesia", praying, seeing an answer, rejoicing briefly, and then moving on. That is why it is powerful to write down our prayers. It helps us remember what we've asked for and notice God's faithfulness over time.

But sometimes the miracles we expect do not come in the form we anticipate. When prayers are not answered with physical healing, we must reject the notion that this indicates we lacked faith or did something wrong. God does not work that way. He invites us to participate in His miraculous work, lifting up those we love, watching in awe as He moves, and to trust that miracles may come in ways we do not expect.

We live between a broken world and our future perfected state. Sometimes the miracle is delayed or unseen; sometimes it takes a physical, circumstantial, or eternal form. And the greatest miracle Jesus has accomplished is spiritual: He has healed our souls, restored us from sin, and prepared a place for eternity. When we open our eyes, partner with Him in prayer, and embrace the miracles He is doing, we open ourselves to lives filled with awe, wonder, and amazement at who He is and all He is doing.

Reflection

Where do you struggle to believe in these kinds of miracles? Why? How has God shown you a miracle before? Did it create amazement and wonder in your heart?

As you end this week, reflect upon this miracle of the cleansing of the unclean spirit. Where were you amazed? How can you begin to seek and find the awe and wonder of Jesus in the world around you?

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

This week, we began our study of Wonderful Things: The Miracles of Jesus. As we wrap up this week's study, reread *Mark 1:23-28*. As you study this passage again, reflect on the miracle of Jesus' authority. Open your heart to the wonderful things He shows us each day about His authority, and open yourself to the awe and wonder of how He exercises this authority in and around us each day.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
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Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

