

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

JESUS: GOD'S
ANSWER TO
OUR DOUBTS

Open it

1. What is your favorite place to visit? What makes it such a special place to you?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 4:43–54.

2. Who came to Jesus for help and what did he need help with?
3. How did Jesus respond to this man's request?
4. What did Jesus say would happen to this man's son?
5. Who met this man on his way home, and what did they have to tell him?
6. What happened as a result of this miracle?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Confronting Doubts

Read John 4:43–54.

Have you ever watched a magician perform? They thrive off controlling your attention. While you're watching their left hand, the real trick is being done in their right hand. There's always more going on than meets your eye. Many of the people who lived in Galilee, and likely this official whose son was sick, believed that Jesus was just a magical miracle man. But Jesus proves throughout this short passage that He is far more than that. But the one thing that is similar is this: while all the focus for this official and his family seems to be focused on the healing of his son, all the while Jesus is addressing this man's doubts and developing his faith in Jesus to the point where he would recognize that Jesus is the Son of God and be saved.

Let's look at the doubts that Jesus conquered here:

First, this man likely heard rumors that Jesus was some sort of traveling miracle maker. He could perform signs and wonders and make people healthy, turn water into wine, and much more. So when his son was on the verge of death and he had nowhere else to turn, he turned to what he believed was just some "magician" who might be able to fix his son.

Second, this man believed that Jesus' powers were limited. While he did have some level of faith that Jesus could heal his son, he seemed to believe that if Jesus didn't heal him before he died, then that would just be the end. He didn't grasp yet that Jesus is the author of all life and would later lay down His own life only to raise it up from the dead on the third day. He also believed that Jesus had to be present at his home in order to heal him. He didn't understand that Jesus had the power and authority to heal his son even from a distance.

So Jesus did as only the great Spiritual Doctor would do; He developed this man's faith. Rather than going down to his house with him, Jesus just told him to go home and that his son would live. This man was forced to take Jesus at His word and ultimately would be convinced that Jesus' power is not limited by physical location or proximity. And when this man learned that his son had been healed, he believed that Jesus is far more than just a miracle man—He is the Son of God.

7. It's normal for people to have doubts about who Jesus is. What are things you've doubted about your faith or maybe even still struggle with doubting today?

8. How should we deal with our doubts?

Day 3 — Today's Theme: The Greatest Miracle

Read John 4:43–54.

At the very end of this whole story, what was the outcome? *“And he himself believed, and all his household.”* All the while, this man thought Jesus was just going to heal his son, but what he didn't realize was that Jesus had been working the whole time to conquer his doubts and reveal to him that Jesus is the real deal. And that's oftentimes how Jesus works in our lives. It isn't every day that we just suddenly have faith and believe that Jesus is legit. Oftentimes it takes some different circumstances in our lives to help bring us to a point of believing.

The greatest miracle that happened in this story is that a sinner and his whole family placed their faith in Jesus and realized that he was the Messiah they had been waiting for. You know, the Bible says that in heaven the angels rejoice when a sinner repents of his sins and is saved. It doesn't say anything about angels rejoicing when other miracles take place. That doesn't mean that miracles aren't amazing and aren't something we should rejoice in. What that does mean, though, is that the salvation of the lost is a far greater thing to celebrate.

I know that today there are many people who may struggle with their faith because they wonder why God has never allowed them to witness a miracle. Or there are people who have been angry with God because He didn't heal their loved one or resolve their problem. But let me encourage you with this: if you have found saving faith in Jesus Christ or those around you have, that is worth far more than any physical miracle you could ask for.

See, too often, Jesus is viewed as a means to the miraculous. What do I mean by that? I mean that many people believe that since they believe in God, then God will solve their problems and basically act like a genie for them. But the reality is that these miracles are used as a means to discover Jesus. Pay attention to the result of all the miracles we'll study in John. Each of them will end with someone or a group of people believing in Jesus for who He is!

9. Why are we so drawn to miracles? Given the opportunity to witness one, what effect should they have in our lives?

10. What feelings do you have about your own salvation? How can you engage with the mission of Christ to seek and save those who are lost?