

C3 LEADERS QUESTIONS
S2021-WEEK 6
3/7/21

Getting Started with a Warm-Up:

- Do you think that miracles still happen and how do you describe a modern day miracle?
- For those who don't believe in God, how do you suppose they explain a miracle?

Getting Down to Business:

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

1) Scripture/Observation:

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-17. If Jesus Christ did not resurrect from the dead then we do not have validation to His words and purpose for His death, then how would you explain our Christian faith?

12 But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? 13 For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. 15 And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. 16 And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. (1 Cor. 15:12-17, Below is an excerpt from the Bible Panorama commentary that you can access by following the link after the excerpt.)

The Bible Panorama commentary

V 12–19: BARREN - Christianity would be barren, dishonest, empty and fruitless if Christ had remained dead.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Cor.+15%3A12-17&version=NLT>

- Read Exodus 4:1-5. Why did God give Moses the ability to turn his staff into a serpent?

C3 LEADERS QUESTIONS
S2021-WEEK 6
3/7/21

- According to Hebrews 2:4, what was the purpose of signs, wonders, and miracles? (Below is an excerpt from the Bible Panorama commentary that you can access by following the link after the excerpt.)

1 But Moses protested again, “What if they won’t believe me or listen to me? What if they say, ‘The Lord never appeared to you?’” 2 Then the Lord asked him, “What is that in your hand?” “A shepherd’s staff,” Moses replied. 3 “Throw it down on the ground,” the Lord told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back. 4 Then the Lord told him, “Reach out and grab its tail.” So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd’s staff in his hand. 5 “Perform this sign,” the Lord told him. “Then they will believe that the Lord, the God of their ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—really has appeared to you.” (Ex. 4:1-5)

The Bible Panorama commentary

V 1: DOUBTS - Moses begins to doubt, and asks what will happen if he is not believed or listened to, or if they say that God has not appeared to him.

V 2–9: DEMONSTRATION - God demonstrates His miraculous power to Moses by turning his rod into a serpent in Moses’ hand and then back again into a rod. He also makes Moses put his hand in his bosom and when it comes out, it is leprous. On putting it back, it is restored. He also tells him that a third sign will be to take water from the river which, when poured out, will become blood on the land. All these miracle gifts for Moses are signs so that people can believe in God as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and also that He has appeared to Moses.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ex.+4%3A1-5&version=NLT>

And God confirmed the message by giving signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose. (Heb. 2:4)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hebrews+2%3A4&version=NLT>

The Bible Panorama commentary

V 1–4: SALVATION - The Hebrew readers are told that they must give careful consideration to what they hear lest they ‘neglect so great a salvation’. God has confirmed that great salvation historically with signs and wonders through the

C3 LEADERS QUESTIONS
S2021-WEEK 6
3/7/21

Holy Spirit. The danger of neglecting His salvation and facing judgement applies to all.

- Read Matthew 24:24. Jesus warns against false messiahs and false prophets who would do false signs and wonders. How do we know the difference between a legit and bogus miracle? (Hint: read vv. 26-27. Below is an excerpt from the IVP New Testament Commentary Series that you can access by following the link after the excerpt.)

For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones...26 "So if someone tells you, 'Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,' don't bother to go and look. Or, 'Look, he is hiding here,' don't believe it! 27 For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. (Matthew 24:24, 26, 27)

The IVP New Testament Commentary Series

God Cares About His Servants in Distress (24:21-28)

Daniel spoke of an end-time tribulation greater than any that had preceded it (Dan 12:1); by indicating that no tribulation before or after this one would rival it, Matthew may suggest that it is a tribulation within history, not necessarily the final one (compare Jos. War 1.12). In any case, he warns against believing anyone who claims to be Christ, for when our Lord really returns even the sky will declare it (24:23-28).

When faith is tested, patience may wane; like Abraham and Sarah, we may be tempted to look for less difficult solutions than trusting God to fulfill his promise literally (Gen 16:1-2). But if our allegiance is to the Lord of the universe, we dare not settle for counterfeits. Signs and wonders (Mt 24:24) alone are inadequate to demonstrate a prophet's authenticity (7:21; Deut 13:1-5; 2 Thess 2:9). At what time will Jesus return? The same day the vultures gather around the corpses of the wicked slain in judgment (Mt 24:28).

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+24&version=NLT>

C3 LEADERS QUESTIONS

S2021-WEEK 6

3/7/21

2) **Application:** What steps can you take to better understand the purpose and function of miracles in God's providence? (Suggestions include searching the scripture for miracles, praying to God for discernment regarding miracles, and reading about miracles in the lives of Christians and missionaries for the gospel.)

3) **Prayer:** Pray that God will give us a clearer knowledge and stronger faith regarding His miracles.