



## WHEN KIDS ASK...



### “Why have miracles happened?”

#### **Why kids might ask:**

Kids can sometimes feel confused when they hear stories about God healing people or bringing the dead to life—especially if those stories don’t align with their own experiences. It is natural for questions to arise about whether miracles do in fact occur. Kids may find it difficult to believe that some of the stories in the Bible or the testimonies they hear from followers of God are true. They may wonder: Why would God need to do a miracle? Why did God sometimes do miracles in the past? Why has God done more miracles for some people than others? What counts as a miracle? These questions might also reveal deeper feelings of anger, pain, or neglect underneath them. Kids may feel confused when they hear about miracles in the distant or recent past and wonder why miracles were done for some if God doesn’t intend to do a miracle for everyone. Some might even want to know what they could do to get God to do a miracle—especially if they feel like they need a miracle right now.



## ...➤ What the Bible says:



Miracles are unpredictable acts of God's love and mercy. God shows love in many ways, and a miracle is one of those ways. God has done miracles in both the distant and recent past and will do them again. We never know fully why God chooses to work a miracle, but we can recognize a few of the reasons. In the Bible, God healed and brought people back to life as extra gifts of love and compassion, as signs pointing to a bigger message, and as glimpses into the healing and raising to come.

Miracles sometimes are special acts of generosity from God. There are stories in the Bible when God was asked to help, and God did, whether through natural or supernatural means. These instances reveal the compassion God has to all of us, not just those who are healed. In fact, the Bible mentions repeatedly that God does not want any to perish but all to receive healing and life. Because of the evil and harm that has come into the world, it is easy to forget that God did not create the world with sickness and death and does not want it this way. Sickness and death do occur, and sometimes God gives generous amounts of hope along with moments of relief. Miracles can provide temporary relief. Also in the miracle there is communication about God's love and care. Miracles can remind us of God's love and care.

The Bible also indicates that God sometimes has healed and brought back to life as signs pointing to something God was doing. For example, Jesus healed the blind, sick, and lame as a sign to reveal that He was the Messiah sent to deliver humanity from sin, evil, and death. Another example is when Jesus healed a man born blind to demonstrate God's glory and help the religious leaders see their own spiritual blindness. When the miracle is a sign, there is a group that God wants to experience or hear the miracle. Even the way a miracle happens—whether through touch, words, or medicine—can carry a deeper meaning. For instance, when a prophet lay on a dead body three times before the person came back to life, it symbolized how it would take three years to restore the nation. Thus the miracle can be God's way of teaching people, both the ones receiving the miracle and everyone who reads or hears about it. Even now God works and uses miracles as signs to teach us.

Sometimes a miracle is a foretaste of the healing and raising that is coming. It's important to remember that God's love and care extend to

everyone, including those who haven't experienced a miracle yet. Those who have experienced miraculous signs can recognize that they are only temporary. Healing or being restored to life after death does not mean that the person never dies. Even those who do experience miracles see that they're temporary. For instance, the Bible tells of a king who was healed after praying to God. He lived 15 more years, but eventually, he became sick and died. Similarly, those whom Jesus raised from the dead eventually died again. Even the friend raised by Jesus after being dead for multiple days eventually died again. The only one who has been raised from the dead and will never die again is Jesus, who was resurrected and continues to live with a resurrected body. Each instance of healing or restoration in the Bible serves as a reminder of God's promise to heal and resurrect at the end of time. In this way everyone who has died eventually will receive the miracle of resurrection, and every healing or restoration to life after death is a small taste of that final resurrection that awaits us.

### ...➤ What you could discuss:



**With preschool ages:** "Miracles are special gifts from God. Sometimes God helps people or even brings them back to life. We don't always know why God does miracles, but they do remind us that God cares for us. Jesus did miracles for some people to help them see how much God loves them. Miracles are like little windows into the big, wonderful things God will do in the future."

**With school ages:** "God's miracles are amazing ways that God shows love and kindness. In the Bible Jesus healed some who were sick and even brought some back to life to show that He was sent by God. Sometimes miracles are signs that teach people important lessons. Other times miracles give hope for God's future plans for us. But miracles don't last forever. People who were healed still got sick and died, and those raised from the dead eventually died again too. The biggest miracle of all is the resurrection of Jesus because He will never die again. One day, God promises to heal and bring back to life everyone who trusts in Him."

## ...➤ What you could do:



**Look at miracles in context:** Every miracle in the Bible occurred within a specific context. Read these stories together and ask questions like: “Who needed to witness this miracle?” and “What did it reveal about God’s love and care?”

**Listen to witnesses:** There are people alive today who have experienced or witnessed miracles. Finding these stories may require some effort, but pastors, teachers, missionaries, or Christian leaders can often point you toward recent examples of God’s work.

## ...➤ Where you could look for more information:

### ✕ **Old Testament miracles of healings and bringing back to life:**

Genesis 20 • Numbers 12 • 1 Kings 17 • 2 Kings 4-5, 13 • Isaiah 38 • Ezekiel 37 • Psalm 30

### ✕ **New Testament miracles of healings and bringing back to life:**

Matthew 8-9, 27 • Mark 1, 5, 7 • Luke 4-5, 7-8 • John 5, 9, 11 • Acts 5, 9, 20 • Revelation 11

### ✕ **Comments about miracles as signs:** Deuteronomy 13 • Isaiah 7 •

Matthew 11 • John 2, 4, 6 • Acts 2, 5 • 1 Corinthians 1 • Hebrews 2

### ✕ **Comments about the miracle of resurrection:** Job 19 • Psalm 16 •

Daniel 12 • Matthew 28 • Luke 24 • John 11, 20 • 1 Corinthians 6, 15 • 1 Thessalonians 4 • Revelation 20-21

