

Table of Contents

*Good News
of
Jesus Christ*

*The Journey Bible Study Series
Level 1: Lessons Leading to Faith*

1. Jesus Demonstrates His Power..... 4

2. Jesus, Our Eternal Life and Light..... 10

3. Jesus Teaches About the Lost 16

4. Jesus Teaches About Prayer..... 21

5. Jesus Speaks about the Christian Life.....28

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Introduction

What power does God have?

How do we get to God?

What does it mean to have a relationship with Him?

How do we know if God hears our prayers?

How can we live and please God?

These are some of the deepest questions a person can ask about life. They are also the most important. The **Good News** is that we can be assured that God has sent the world all the answers we need for these questions. The answers are all found in **Jesus Christ**, God's Son! God has also given the world His word written down in the Holy Bible, so we can learn about Jesus.

The questions above are exactly what this Bible study is about: the Good News of Jesus Christ!

It is through Jesus that we find the answers to all these questions.

Each of the five chapters of this booklet is made up of a number of readings from the Bible, and questions to help you discuss these readings. We pray that you come to know more than just facts about Jesus Christ through this Bible study... we pray for you come to know Jesus himself intimately.

Lesson One

Jesus Demonstrates His Power

John 2:1-11; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 4:31-37; Matthew 14:22-33

Not long after Jesus began his ministry He became known among the people as a great miracle worker. Nothing was too hard for Him. No area of life was beyond the reach of His great power. In this chapter we read about some of the miracles Jesus performed and the reactions of the people to each of them.

Reading 1

Jesus Changes Water into Wine

John 2:1-11

¹Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee, and Jesus' mother was there. ²Jesus and his followers were also invited. ³At the wedding there was not enough wine, so Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴Jesus answered, "Dear woman, why are you telling me this? It is not yet time for me to begin my work."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do what he tells you."

⁶There were six large stone waterpots there that were used by the Jews in their washing ceremonies. Each held about 20 or 30 gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them to the top.

⁸Then he said to them, "Now dip out some water and take it to the man in charge of the feast."

So they did what he said. ⁹Then the man in charge tasted it, but the water had become wine. He did not know where the wine had come from, but the servants who brought the water knew. He called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "People always serve the best wine first. Later, when the guests are drunk, they serve the cheaper wine. But you have saved the best wine until now."

¹¹This was the first of all the miraculous signs Jesus did. He did it in the town of Cana in Galilee. By this he showed his divine greatness, and his followers believed in him.

Discussion:

What prompted Jesus to turn the water to wine?

Who knew about the miracle? Who didn't?

How do you suppose each of these responded to the miracle: Mary? The servant? The disciples?

Reading 2

Jesus Calms the Storm

Mark 4:35-41

³⁵That day, at evening, Jesus said to his followers, "Come with me across the lake."³⁶So they left the crowd behind and went with Jesus in the boat he was already in. There were also other boats that went with them. ³⁷A very bad wind came up on the lake. The waves were coming over the sides and into the boat, and it was almost full of water. ³⁸Jesus was inside the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The followers went and woke him. They said, "Teacher, don't you care about us? We are going to drown!"

³⁹Jesus stood up and gave a command to the wind and the water. He said, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind stopped and the lake became calm.

⁴⁰He said to his followers, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹They were very afraid and asked each other, "What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the water obey him!"

Discussion:

How did the disciples feel when Jesus slept during the storm on the lake?

How did the disciples feel after Jesus calmed the storm?

What kind of man can control storms and waves?

Reading 3

Jesus Casts Out Demons

Luke 4:31-37

³¹Jesus went to Capernaum, a city in Galilee. On the Sabbath day he taught the people. ³²They were amazed at his teaching because he spoke with authority. ³³In the synagogue there was a man who had an evil spirit from the devil inside him. The man shouted loudly, ³⁴“Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Did you come here to destroy us? I know who you are—God’s Holy One!” ³⁵But Jesus warned the evil spirit to stop. He said, “Be quiet! Come out of the man!” The evil spirit threw the man down on the ground in front of everyone. Then the evil spirit left the man and did not hurt him.

³⁶The people were amazed. They said to each other, “What does this mean? With authority and power he commands evil spirits and they come out.” ³⁷And so the news about Jesus spread to every place in the whole area.

Discussion:

In what ways did Jesus show authority in this story?

How did the demons respond to Jesus’ authority?

How did the people respond?

Reading 4

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:22-33

²²Then Jesus made the followers get into the boat. He told them to go to the other side of the lake. He said that he would come later. He stayed there to tell everyone they could go home. ²³After Jesus said goodbye to the people, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. It was late, and he was there alone. ²⁴By this time, the boat was already a long way from shore. Since the wind was blowing against it, the boat was having trouble because of the waves.

²⁵Between three and six o’clock in the morning, Jesus’ followers were still in the boat. Jesus came to them. He was walking on the water. ²⁶When they saw him walking on the water, it scared them. “It’s a ghost!” they said, screaming in fear.

²⁷But Jesus quickly spoke to them. He said, “Don’t worry! It’s me! Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸Peter said, “Lord, if that is really you, tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹Jesus said, “Come, Peter.”

Then Peter left the boat and walked on the water to Jesus.

³⁰But while Peter was walking on the water, he saw the wind and the waves. He was afraid and began sinking into the water. He shouted, “Lord, save me!”

³¹Then Jesus caught Peter with his hand. He said, “Your faith is small. Why did you doubt?”

³²After Peter and Jesus were in the boat, the wind stopped.

³³Then the followers in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, “You really are the Son of God.”

Discussion:

Why could Peter first walk on the water, but later began to sink?

When Peter and Jesus climbed into the boat during the storm, what happened to the wind?

Do you think Peter's faith was small? Why or why not?

What does Jesus' last statement here show about the kind of faith He desires from His followers?

What evidence caused the disciples to conclude that Jesus was the Son of God?

What impressed you most about the miracles of Jesus in these readings?