

IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus and His disciples walked all over Israel. Everywhere they went, big crowds would gather to see Jesus.

He talked a lot about the kingdom of God. But He didn't just **TALK** about the kingdom of God; Jesus also **SHOWED** people what the kingdom of God was like.

How? By doing amazing things. Unbelievable things! Jesus called them "signs" that pointed to the kingdom of God. Today we call them **MIRACLES**.

In Jesus' day, many people were **AFRAID** of the sea. Fishermen and sailors had to go out on the sea, which often put them in danger. Today we have satellites that tell sailors when big storms are headed their way, but back in Jesus' day, it was hard to know when a big storm was coming. The sea was scary!

One night, Jesus was on a boat with His disciples when a **HUGE** storm took over the sea. Their boat was going to sink, and the disciples were afraid they would die. Meanwhile, Jesus was asleep in the boat.

The disciples woke up Jesus and said, "Hey! Did You notice the storm? We're going to die!"

Jesus opened His eyes, looked at them, and said, "Why are you so afraid?"

Then He turned to the storm—the **GIANT** storm that was sinking their boat—and said, "Stop it!"

And guess what? The storm stopped! Completely.

The disciples couldn't believe what had just happened. *Who can talk to a storm and the storm obeys Him?*

Jesus was giving them a **SIGN**. In the kingdom of God, there was no danger from the sea, because Jesus was the King of everything! Even the big, scary sea listened to Jesus.



Another time Jesus was surrounded by thousands of people who had followed Him far away from town with no food to eat.

The disciples got nervous. “What will we give them to eat?” they wondered.

One little boy had **FIVE** loaves of bread and **TWO** small fish. He gave them to the disciples.

“Will this help?” he said.

The disciples thought it was silly. You can’t feed thousands of people with two loaves of bread and five little fish!

Or can you?

Jesus took the boy’s gift and prayed over it. Then He started breaking pieces off and giving them to people.

And there were more pieces . . .

And more pieces . . .

And **MORE** pieces . . .

So many pieces that every person got to eat as much as they wanted.

The disciples couldn’t believe their eyes!

“Why are you so surprised?” Jesus asked.

He was giving them another sign. In the kingdom of God, there is **ALWAYS** enough. Enough food, enough warmth, enough love. Where Jesus is King, we will never run out of anything!



Jesus also **HEALED** people. This was a sign that Jesus was King over sickness and disease. In the kingdom of God, there is no sickness!

But even more amazing, one time when a sick little girl died before Jesus could get there to heal her, Jesus said to her parents, “Don’t worry. She’s okay.”

And the little girl came back to life, got up, and walked **RIGHT** out of her room! Even though she had died. Even death has to obey Jesus in the kingdom of God.

Everyone was amazed by the things Jesus did. The crowds that followed Him got bigger, and bigger, and **BIGGER**. Everyone was excited to see Jesus!

Except the Pharisees. *Remember them?* They thought Jesus was getting **TOO** popular. **TOO** many people were following Him around, and some of those people even said they thought Jesus should be king!

The Pharisees went to the Sadducees to talk about Jesus.

Who were the Sadducees? They were the group of Israelites who were in charge of punishments. The Pharisees kept track of all the rules, and the Sadducees were in charge of **PUNISHING** the people who broke the rules.

“This Jesus guy is breaking rules and causing trouble!” said the Pharisees.

Hmm, thought the Sadducees, *We might have to do something about that.*

So the Sadducees began looking for a way to arrest Jesus.



IT'S A MIRACLE! FAMILY CONNECTION

MARK 4:35-41; MARK 6:30-44;
MARK 5:21-43



FUN FACTS

There are thirty-seven miracles of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. Jesus healed someone twenty-four times, He performed a miracle of nature ten times, and He raised someone from the dead three times! The Feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle recorded in all of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

TALK

What do Jesus' miracles tell us about the kingdom of God?

What amazing thing have you seen that could be a miracle?

Dear God...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for the amazing signs You give to show us what Your kingdom is like. Amen.



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It's a Miracle! Matching Game

Instructions

Print and cut the "It's a Miracle! Matching Game" cards. Some cards have pictures of miracles and some have the title and Bible reference for the miracle.

You can play the game like a traditional memory matching game or if you have more than one child at home, mix up the cards and have them work together to match the picture with the miracle and Bible reference.

When you are done playing, review each of the miracles with your kids. You can also print the cards double-sided and give a set to each child so they can practice remembering Jesus' miracles on their own.


To use with a group of kids: Give each child a different card. (Make sure you have an even number and each one has a match. You may need to print two or more sets depending on the size of your group.) Tell the kids they can't look at their cards until you say, "GO!". When you say "Go" they have to move around and find the person who has the match to their card.





**Jesus calms
the storm.**

Matthew 8:23-27



**Jesus heals
the man who
couldn't walk.**

Matthew 9:1-8



**Jesus heals
the blind man.**

John 9:1-7



**Jesus heals
Peter's
mother-in-law.**

Matthew 8:14-15



**Jesus raises
a girl back
to life.**

Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25



**Jesus feeds
the 5000.**

Matthew 14:13-21



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