

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“Miracle Man” (pt. 3) – 6/1/2014

**Scripture:** John 4:46-54

**Bottom Line:** God and his grace are limitless.

**INTRODUCTION:** Do you have trouble believing in miracles? If so, what's the most difficult part? For many it just seems so unnatural that it is hard to believe. It is important though to remember that Jesus isn't doing miracles to prove that he can or to entertain. These miracles are first steps in a larger plan to bring redemption. The whole point is to reveal Jesus.

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

**Read John 4:46-54**

What are some similarities between this story and the story of Jesus turning water into wine in John 2?

- Both take place in Cana, whereas most of Jesus' miracles were near Jerusalem.
- Both stories start with a serious need that is brought to Jesus.
- In both stories, Jesus does a miracle but it is not exactly public. Only the servants and disciples knew that Jesus turned water into wine. Likewise, in this story, only the official and his household know that a miracle was done because the boy was not present with Jesus and the crowd.
- Both miracles result in people coming to faith in Jesus. At the wedding, it was the disciples who believed. Here, in this story, it was the official and his household.

Who was the official that Jesus helped and why is this important?

- The official worked for a ruthless king named Herod. Because of Herod's character, this person was mostly likely more like a mid level mob boss rather than a respectable government official.
- Jesus proves time and time again that he is in the business of redeeming difficult people from all walks of life.

List some of the difficult people that Jesus saves in the New Testament?

- The mobster official in John 4.
- The Samaritan woman in John 4
- The self-righteous Pharisee in John 3
- Simon the Zealot (the zealots were political revolutionaries...basically a terrorist group) who was one of the 12 disciples
- Multiple prostitutes and tax collectors
- The demon possessed man in Mark 5.
- People from difference religions or worldviews in Acts 17.
- Saul who became the apostle Paul (a religious terrorist who killed Christians), etc

### UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

God and his grace are not limited by our perfection or imperfection. We are not accepted before God based on our performance but based on Jesus' performance on our behalf.

How does this give you security?

As in the story, God is not limited by our circumstances. How should we respond to this ever present truth?

- Don't give up. Continue to bring before Jesus your whole life.

### LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

God and his grace are limitless.

What are a few ways that you can live in light of this truth this week?