

# NCS MESSAGE GUIDE

**TOPIC:** How Miracles Give Us Hope

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 2:1-12

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Through miracles Jesus shows us what God and His Kingdom is like. Miracles also give us hope for a fixed world when Jesus returns as king.

**PRAYER:** Father please give me the faith and the hope that you are good and that Jesus will return one day to make everything right.

## Scripture

*2 When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. 2 Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, 3 four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. 4 They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. 5 Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."*

*6 But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, 7 "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"*

*8 Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? 9 Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? 10 So I will prove to you that the Son of Man[a] has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, 11 "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"*

*12 And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"*

## Message Summary

While Jesus was alive he did plenty of miracles for others he loved like this one. Miracles like this show what the world will be like when Jesus comes back as the true king. Jesus wants to bring healing and forgiveness to everyone. The focus of our faith should not just be about going to heaven when we die, but should be about our hope that Jesus is going to heal and fix the broken world that we currently live in. You may be able to notice if you look around in culture that our world is broken right now, but we must continue to have faith that God's desire and mission is to bring peace on earth. When we think like this it leads us to believe that God is actually good and He wants to fix our problems and the world's problems.

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## Questions to Consider

1. Was there a time you questioned God being good? Why?
  2. Do you think Christians focus too much on going to heaven when we die instead of talking about how God wants to save the world? Why do you think this?
  3. Are there examples from your life or others that God still does miracles today?
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## Daily Spiritual Practice

### *Monday*

- Listen to the song "Miracles" by Jesus Culture

### *Tuesday*

- Read the miracle in Mark 5:21-43 and reflect for 3 minutes on the scripture.

### *Wednesday*

- Take time today to ask God to bring healing to the people in your life who are sick.

### *Thursday*

- Talk with your family or small group leader about how you imagine the world to be like when Jesus comes back.

### *Friday*

- Listen to the song "Miracles" by Kirk Franklin.