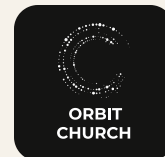


A Second Miracle

2025-02-10 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 4

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

A royal official walked miles to beg Jesus for his dying son, and Jesus healed the boy from a distance. Pastor Matt preached this the morning he had to put his dog down, and he was honest about it. His point: desperation drives us to ask, but most of us have been trained to stay stubborn and keep our problems to ourselves. The official welcomed Jesus, asked boldly, and kept asking even after a hard answer. Ask God for the desires of your heart. And when the next miracle shows up in someone else's life first, let it carry you through your own wait.

To get started

- When did you last ask someone for help before you were completely out of options?

Looking back at the message

Pastor Matt preached this the morning he had to put his dog down. That honesty is part of the message.

- 1 Pastor Matt said most of us are trained to be stubborn, keeping our problems to ourselves instead of asking for help. How true is that of you?
- 2 Pastor Matt contrasted two towns: Galilee welcomed Jesus, but his hometown Nazareth could only see the carpenter's kid. Which is closer to how you receive Jesus, and why?
- 3 Pastor Matt said you find out whether you really welcome Jesus when he asks you to do something hard. What hard thing has God asked of you lately? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 4:43-54. Verse 48 sounds harsh, and the father's reply in 49 is the point.

- 4 Read John 4:46-54. What does the father ask for, and what does Jesus say back in verse 48?
- 5 The father does not argue with the hard answer. He just asks again. What does that tell you about his faith?
- 6 Jesus heals from miles away, and the father believes before he sees any proof. Where is the moment of faith in this story?
- 7 Read Psalm 37:4. How do delighting in God and asking God fit together? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The resilience point is the practical one. Ask how many times people actually pray about a thing.

- 8 Pastor Matt asked how many times you have actually prayed about the thing you say God has not done. What is your honest number?
- 9 What have you stopped asking God for?
- 10 Pastor Matt suggested God sometimes lets us wait now so our faith holds when something harder comes. When have you seen waiting work that way?
- 11 Sometimes God gives peace about a thing instead of changing it. Where have you received that instead of what you asked for? OPTIONAL

The group together

Watching someone else's answered prayer is what sustains people in a dry season. Make room for testimony.

- 12 Whose answered prayer have you gotten to watch lately? What did it do for your own faith?
- 13 What keeps people in this group from telling each other what they actually need?
- 14 What is one thing this group could pray for together and keep praying for?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is the thing you quietly gave up asking for, and what would it take to ask again this week?

You might pray about

- For the specific requests people are carrying and have not voiced
- For resilience when the first answer is not what we wanted
- For anyone in the group who is grieving right now