



\_\_\_\_\_ “miracles”

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The issue of skepticism about miracles is not a matter of science but \_\_\_\_\_...

... and *everybody's* got a philosophy of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 7:18-20    Luke 7: 24-26    Luke 7:21-23

Miracles are the “\_\_\_\_\_”...

But they are periodic \_\_\_\_\_ of what once was, and \_\_\_\_\_  
of what one day, *will be all the time.*

Romans 8:7-11 (NIV)                  Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)

5 minute Challenge:

\_\_\_\_\_

Lord, where have I missed -- \_\_\_\_\_?

*Echoes*

Luke 7:18-23

## study questions



Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

### INTRODUCTION

Most of us have wondered about what is beyond us. How did we get here? What difference does my being here make? What is my part to play? Is there something to this supernatural realm stuff?

Many of us could even go so far as to say we've seen the intervention of the other “realm.” Something has happened that is inexplicable in our lives, or in situations we've seen. Something that is beyond normal. We can't describe it using terms of the natural order of the world as we observe it. The question is are these illusions or actually hints of knowledge and reality beyond normal human life?

Of course the Bible claims, and pretty much all Christians believe (even if we don't always practice life based on the belief), that God not only created the world and the whole natural order, but he has reached into history through the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus to fix it – the greatest miracles of all.

What's your take? Have you seen echoes of the way things were in Eden in your life?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Talk about a time when you really felt that you had a grand purpose for you being here.
  - Describe a time when you've seen something you would describe as God reaching into our world.
  - Have you seen what you would call a miracle? Explain.
- Read Luke 7: 18-26 together.**
  - Why do you think John asked Jesus that question?
  - What do you think of Jesus' response? What is he trying to say to his cousin John?
  - What is Jesus trying to get John, his own disciple, and us, to focus on by answering the question this way? [It could be taken as a pretty odd answer.]
- Now read Romans 8:5-17 together.**
  - What is Paul saying about how God actually works in his/our lives?
  - How does that resonate with your heart and what you hope for in Jesus?
  - How does it mesh with your experience?
- If you haven't taken the “5 minute challenge” yet this week – make a commitment to do so. If you have, share with your group what you experienced. [Note: “I discovered ...” and “nothing” are both legit answers if they're real]
- How can the people of your group be praying for you and help you see the divine echoes of the presence of your loving creator in your life this week?

### MOVING FORWARD

If it is true that there are miraculous echoes of eternity all around us, it sure would be great to contact more of them. Jesus has not only provided a way for that to happen, he has sent us a Guide in his Holy Spirit. Read back over Romans 8 again in a quiet place this week, pausing for a few moments after each sentence (if it takes you several times to get through it, so be it). As you do, ask God to show himself to you. Even if you're skeptical... what do you have to lose?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

“...the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.” Romans 8:27