

# MIRACLES

*then and now*

## **PART 3: DON'T LOSE HOPE**

In the midst of our hard circumstances, we can find ourselves measuring God's faithfulness by our circumstances. But a delayed or denied miracle is not a reflection of God's care or power.

### **CONNECT**

If you could instantly have one wish, what would you wish for?

### **LEARN**

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Watch the full message sometime this week as a reminder of what you talked about today.

### **APPLY**

After sharing what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Why do we so often tie God's trustworthiness to our circumstances?
2. How does Tim Keller's idea of miracles as "restoration previews" change how you interpret unanswered prayers?
3. Jesus called John the greatest prophet ever, even as John sat in prison. What do you think this reveals about how God views us when life isn't improving?
4. Joel mentions three ways to respond when God seems to be holding out on you:
  - Look back.
  - Look out.
  - Look up.

Which one is the easiest for you? Which one is the hardest?

5. Where might God be asking you to trust his bigger story instead of getting immediate relief

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## **BEFORE NEXT TIME**

Whatever your story or circumstance, take some time this week to:

Look Back: Recall moments when God was undeniably present or faithful.

Look Out: Notice where God is at work beyond your situation.

Look Up: Invite God to define your circumstances.

## **PRAY**

Ask God for clarity, not control. Pray for the courage to trust his character when his timing is confusing and the humility to let him define the story you're in.