

Study Guide

Monday, June 28 - Read John 4:49-50 When Jesus returned to Cana where He had changed the water into wine, He met a government official who begged Him to come to his home and heal his son who was about to die. Jesus' response was not what you might expect, "Will you never believe in Me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?" (Vs. 48). Was Jesus rebuking him? I don't think so. I believe He was describing our human condition that says, "If I can see it, I'll believe it!" But Jesus was about to turn that around! Jesus was teaching a principle of faith that says, "You'll see it when you believe it." The official believed that if Jesus didn't come to his home and heal his son, the boy was sure to die. He pleaded, "Lord, please come now before my little boy dies!" (Vs. 49). He made two common mistakes. He assumed that Jesus had to be present to heal his son, and that it would be too late if the boy died! But Jesus would show him that God works the miracle in His time and in His way. So He tells him, "Go back home. Your son will live!" (Vs. 50). What would you do? This was certainly not what he had expected. Sometimes our expectations of what God should do and how He should do it get in the way. You have to give some credit to this official though. He made no further appeals. As desperate as he was, he chose to believe Jesus and started home. On the way home his servants ran to meet him with the good news that his son was alive and well! In fact, he discovered the miracle occurred at the exact time Jesus had told him to go back home! Common sense says, "I'll believe it when I see it!" but faith says, "You'll see it when you believe it." The official believed what Jesus told him and, when he acted on that assumption, he saw the miracle! Are you in a crisis of faith? What has God said that you simply need to believe Him for today? Trust God to work the miracle in His time and in His way.

Tuesday, June 30 - John 5:2-6 When Jesus asked a paralytic if he wanted to get well, you would think his response would be enthusiastic, but the man made excuses as to why he remained in such a sad condition. His will had become as paralyzed as his body. How often has Jesus reached out to you, only to hear an excuse as to why you never change? The man had a good excuse. He said, "Sir, I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." All the man could see for 38 years was the impossibility of his condition. He had resigned himself to remain just as he was - unchanged. Have you also given up on the possibility of changing? Ignoring his excuses, Jesus said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!" He told the man to do the very thing he had been unable to do; but, in His command was the power to do it! Hebrews 4:12 tells us, "For whatever God says to us is full of living power..." It was the power of Jesus' word that enabled this man to change. He was instantly healed. The Bible says, "He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking!" The word of God has the power to change lives today. But there was a much deeper change needed in this man, though, as there is in your life and mine. The man did not realize until later who it was that had spoken to him and healed him. Jesus had disappeared in the crowd. A while later, Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, "Stop sinning or something even worse may happen to you." This suggests to me that this man's plight may have been the result of some bad decisions or sin on his part, but there is no record that the man sought forgiveness as had others that Jesus healed. How tragic to be that close to Christ, even experience a miracle, and yet remain unsaved. Miracles don't produce faith. The greatest change in our lives happens in our hearts. It's there where we need our greatest healing. The miracle you need most leads you to what you really need most - a deeper relationship with God. Have you stopped short of experiencing the greatest miracle of all?

Wednesday, July 1 - Read John 6:5-6 When you compare the story of the feeding of the 5,000 in each of the gospels, you will see that there were four possible solutions for the problem the disciples and Jesus were facing: 1. According to Mark's account, one solution was to send the people away. Get rid of the problem. However, Jesus knew how hungry the people were, and there was no time for travel since it was already evening. 2. Another option came from Philip. He suggested buying food, but that only raised more problems as to where they would get it and how they would pay for it. Philip counted the cost, and it added up to about 200 days wages to feed them. Even that, he said, would not be enough to satisfy their hunger. 3. Andrew came the closest to a solution. He canvassed the crowd and found a little boy with a sack lunch that was willing to donate all he had, five small barley loaves of bread and a couple of small fish. But reality set in and Andrew said, "How far will they go among so many?" How often the need seems greater than the supply! 4. Finally, Jesus spoke up. When He asked Philip in the beginning, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" the Bible says, "He was testing Philip, for He already knew what He was going to do." He always does! Jesus took the little boy's lunch, gave thanks to God, and gave it to His disciples to distribute to the people. Not only did the people eat all they wanted, but the Bible says the disciples collected 12 baskets of leftovers! Little is much when God is in it! God will often test our faith so that we may learn to trust in Him even when we don't have the resources to do what He says. If you want to see a miracle in your life, offer to God what you have and let Him do the rest.

Thursday, July 2 - Read John 6:16-21 This miracle comes on the heels of feeding the 5,000. The crowds were understandably impressed with both Jesus' teaching, miracles, and provision! John tells us, in verse 15, that the crowd was ready to force Jesus to be their King. But that wasn't why He came, and He knew that their motives were not pure. They wanted an earthly king who would deliver them from the oppression of Rome and satisfy their every physical need. Jesus said to the fickle crowd, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with Me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you." John 6:26-27 (NLT). As Jesus slipped away into the hills, the disciples went down to the shore to wait for Him. Since it was getting dark and Jesus had not returned, they got into the boat and headed across the lake. It wasn't long before they found themselves in the midst of a fierce storm on the lake. John tells us that Jesus came walking to them, in the storm, on the water! Imagine being in the boat with those disciples. I would have been as terrified as they were! But Jesus calls out to them, "Don't be afraid, I am here!" In the language of the New Testament, Jesus uses the very name of God. He says, "Don't be afraid, The I AM is here!" Wow! When they let Him in the boat, the Bible says they immediately arrived at their destination! If you're going through a storm in your life, take comfort in knowing that your Savior will come to you and bring you to your destination. The great I AM is with you!

Friday, July 3 - Read John 9:1-13 How often have we jumped to the wrong conclusion about suffering in our lives? Here was a man born blind. With no social welfare available, all he could do was sit and beg. It was a pitiful sight for the disciples, and they jumped to the wrong conclusion, thinking he or his parents must have sinned to be in such a condition! Jesus revolutionized their thinking with an entirely different perspective! He said that the man was blind "so the power of God could be seen in him!" Our weaknesses in life are the platform for God to show Himself mighty! In our weakness, His strength is made perfect. Your strengths may impress others; but, if you'll let Him, God will use your weaknesses to influence them. Jesus took compassion on the man and used the miracle for a message on spiritual blindness. After spitting on the ground and making mud with His saliva, Jesus spread the mud over the eyes of the blind man. Jesus then told the man to go wash in the pool of Siloam. When he did, the Bible says he came back seeing! There's nothing like a little irritation to make you seek cleansing, is there? This man had no idea who Jesus was; He had never seen Him. When you read the story, you discover the greater miracle comes at the end. Later, Jesus finds the man and asks him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" The man replied, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him." John 9:37-38 (NKJV). The miracle was twofold. He was given both physical and spiritual sight! The miracle he thought he needed most led him to the miracle he really needed most, a personal relationship with the source of miracles!

Adapted from: <http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/books/246647/find-your-miracle-by-kerry-and-chris-shook/>

THE COVENANT HAPPENINGS

WORSHIP AT COVENANT

06.28.20

Sundays

8:15
AM

Traditional Service Sanctuary
CovKids Main Building
Birth - 4 years old - Nursery Hall

9:45
AM

Contemporary Service Sanctuary
CovKids Main Building
Birth - 4 years old - Nursery Hall

11
AM

Contemporary Service - Collide
Christian Life Center Gym

Wednesdays

6
PM

1st Wednesday
Once a month
Bible Study
Weekly

Online

No matter where you are on Sundays, you can join us for worship on our Covenant app, on our website at covenantdothan.org or on Facebook at facebook.com/covumcdathan.

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Covenant is excited about our plan for a *gradual* re-opening on campus beginning with worship services only. For your safety, we will have limited seating during each service and childcare for ages 4 and younger will be available (reservations requested). Children ages 5 and older as well as students will worship with their families. All of our services are available on our online campus.

Sundays 8:15 am, 9:45 am & 11 am Collide

Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 pm

Livestream: covenantdothan.org/messages

Facebook Live: facebook.com/covumcdathan

YouTube: Search Covenant Dothan UMC

First Wednesday

Join us this **Wednesday, July 1, at 7 pm** for a drive in worship experience. Invite your family and friends to join you, and we'll have a bag of kettle corn for your car to share as we worship through music and hear a message together.

Giving to Covenant

We are called to practice generosity in every area of our lives. Through your continued support of Covenant we are able to unleash compassion and share the love of Jesus with our hurting world. Visit covenantdothan.org/give to see how you can partner with us during this time.

COVENANT growthtrack

We are excited to offer a virtual Growth Track class **TONIGHT, June 28 at 5 pm** via Zoom. God still has a plan for your life, and Growth Track is designed to help you discover your purpose! If you'd like to join our June class or have questions, contact Shawn Shirley at shawn@covenantdothan.org.

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any phone or tablet device.



Baptism

We believe baptism is an important step of obedience in our faith journey. It shows that we have personally trusted Jesus for our salvation, and just as Jesus was baptized on earth, we do this to follow his example. Your baptism symbolizes the new life you have found in Christ just as Jesus rose to life again. If you have questions about baptism or would like to be baptized, contact Rev. Kyle Gatlin at kyle@covenantdothan.org.

Welcome New Members

Gabe & Carolyn Newman, Raleigh Thagard

CovGroups

New Study Do you desire a deeper relationship with God? Join us for an eight-session study examining scriptural realities that teach believers how to develop an obedient love relationship with God. "Seven Realities for Experiencing God" demonstrates how God uses ordinary people to experience Him in extraordinary ways and explores Biblical truths such as "God is always at work around you." This group meets via Zoom on **Wednesday evenings at 6 pm** and is great for new believers or those looking to deepen their relationship with Christ. The group will attend First Wednesday service together each month and meet on Zoom the remaining Wednesday evenings. For more information, contact Wendy Hicks at wendy@covenantdothan.org.

Right Now Media Our church has access to an extensive video library called Right Now Media. It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and contains a HUGE library of faith-based videos that can be accessed from anywhere. We believe Right Now Media is a tool that can serve you as you live out your faith at home, work, and in your neighborhood. There are videos for everyone - kids, students, & adults - aimed at helping you grow in your faith. Contact Wendy Hicks to sign up.

Covenant News & Happenings

Are you interested in receiving a weekly eNewsletter along with other Covenant news by email? This is a great way to stay up to date on upcoming events, registration, prayer concerns and more. Email Courtney Hardy at courtney@covenantdothan.org to sign up.

CovTrips

Join us **October 18-24** as we set off for Lancaster in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. This seven day, six night trip includes transportation, lodging, ten meals, admission to the Queen Esther Show, Gettysburg National Park, admission to the Amish Experience and Jacob's Choice at the F/X Theatre, and guided tours. The cost is \$659 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$75 will hold your spot. Contact Sherry Koogler at 793.4440 for more information.

Care Ministries



Celebrate Recovery Celebrate Recovery is a Christ centered recovery program for everyone who struggles with a hurt, habit or hang-up. Join us on Facebook at [facebook.com/covumcdathan](https://www.facebook.com/covumcdathan) on Thursdays at 6 pm as we provide a teaching or an inspiring testimony. For more information contact Sherry Koogler at sherryk@covenantdothan.org.

Grief Support Grief Support is a safe, confidential, loving and Christ-centered environment for sharing one another's burdens. We begin with a short presentation on a topic connected to grief and then break into small groups for discussion and sharing. Grief Support meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month and is currently meeting via Zoom. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Jim Hicks at hicksje@graceba.net.

Stephen Ministry Stephen Ministry is Christ caring for people through people.



If you are going through a difficult time, contact Kyle Gatlin at 793.4440 or kyle@covenantdothan.org. The care you'll receive is confidential, free and very helpful.



Stay connected with our CovKids! Be sure to check out everything CovKids has coming up on Facebook & Instagram - live devotionals, book readings, crafts & more!

Facebook: [facebook.com/CovKids](https://www.facebook.com/CovKids)
Instagram: [instagram.com/covkids_](https://www.instagram.com/covkids_)



Stay connected with our CovStudents! Be sure to check out everything CovStudents has coming up.

Facebook: [facebook.com/CovStudents](https://www.facebook.com/CovStudents)
Instagram: [instagram.com/covstudents](https://www.instagram.com/covstudents)

CovMissions

While our outreach certainly does look differently these days, rest assured that not even a Pandemic will stop us from unleashing compassion. Here are a couple of things CovMissions has been able to do over the last couple of months:

- Through our partnership with the local food bank, we were given 50 vouchers to distribute as needed. Each voucher entitled the recipient to 40 pounds of frozen chicken quarters. We were able to be a blessing to many through this program.
- Although we have not gathered to cook and serve, we have continued to provide easy to prepare meals for the staff to serve at Dothan Rescue Mission (our local homeless shelter).

To learn more or to see how you can help, contact Barbi Nolan at barbi@covenantdothan.org or visit [covenantdothan.org/connect/missions](https://www.covenantdothan.org/connect/missions).

Rummage Sale

Just a reminder that we have storage space available if you have donations you would like to give to the Rummage Sale. The Rummage Sale benefits our Celebrate Recovery program as well as other missions in the Wiregrass. Contact Sherry Koogler at sherryk@covenantdothan.org and she will set up a time to meet you to drop off donations.

Covenant Concerns

Sympathy

The Pastors and congregation would like to express our deepest sympathy to Royce and Michele York on the death of his brother, *James York*.

Recent Prayer Concerns Jennette Gayer, Ava Blackburn, Beth & Tom Sherrer, Ronnie Brannon, Molly Tew, Tom Renshaw Sr., Margaret Wilson, David Cunningham, Linda Griffith, Chris Smith, John Babinski, Tim Koogler, Linda Avera, Carrie Williams, Beverly Youse, Kathy Kerecman, Sandy Lisenby, Danielle Simmons, Tammy Reese, Family of Patsy Bowling, Johnathan Berry, Carla Lawrence, Wallace Family, JJ Price Family, Alan Tidwell, Quinton Snellgrove, Terri Daughtry, Lori Burns, Dr. Bill Lies, Lisa Silcox, Natalie Faulk, Christy Goodwin Bullard, Mary Lisenby, George Stokes, Mark Arrington, William Brown, Peter Collins Jr., Jill Walden, Sue Reynolds, Hays McKay, Helon Scott, Jeanne Stringfellow, Dutch Holland, James Salter, Lois Axtell, Thomas Evans, Lucy Cline, Carolyn Benton, Kim McNeill, David Johnston, Yvonne Reid, Cher Hicks, Happy Fox, Pete Shelley, Lisa Henry, Karen Medley, Gayle Moores, Lamar Spence, Martha Jane Shannon, Jerry Dooling, Tipton Family, Kathy Clark, Wynn Arkle, June Granberry, Evie Riley, Tony Justice, Richard Duncan, Sarah Grantham, Charles Meeks, JoAnn Gamble, Laurie Axtell, Allwyn Nilsson, Trip and Haley Moseley & family, Avery Wells, Jeffrey Bostwick, Scott Berry, Jennie Lawson, Scott Brown, Angie Goodson, Janis Caddell, Shelby Clark, Kendrea White, Kelly Armstrong Smith, Bobby Simmons, Michael Buntin, Bernice White, Beverly White, Audrey Miller, Carolyn Thomley, Bob Drummond, Connie Moore

Recently Deployed Jerrad Anderson

Have a prayer request? If you have a prayer request you would like to add to this list, please email Kyle Gatlin at kyle@covenantdothan.org.