

## STUDY GUIDE

**Monday, June 22 – Read Matthew 14:22-27; John 6:16-20; Job 9:8; 2 Kings 6:5-7** Straight after Jesus had fed the crowd, He told the disciples to get back into the boat and go ahead of Him. After sending the people home, He went up a mountain to be alone to pray. Meanwhile a strong wind was blowing across the lake, and the disciples in the boat were being thrown around by the waves. In the early hours of the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus came walking toward them on the water. The disciples were terrified because they thought they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus said to them, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." What wonderful words of hope Jesus spoke to the fearful disciples. They had been rowing half the night, fearing that their boat would sink ... and then they thought they were seeing a ghost! When life gets stormy and it feels like you're about to get swamped by waves of trouble, you fear the worst. You struggle on your own until you're exhausted; and just when you think you can't carry on, things get worse. Just stop! Put down the oars of your boat and pray. Jesus is coming to help you. Do not fear! FYI: Jesus walking on water went against the laws of nature. The prophet Elisha had faith to make a metal axhead float on water (2 Kings 6:5-7)

**Tuesday, June 23 – Read John 11:1-32** Have you ever heard of Lazarus? He was the brother of two pretty famous sisters: Mary and Martha. While he was sick, the sisters were crushed. They loved their brother so much, and the first thing they did was send word to Jesus saying, "LORD! Behold, the one who you love is sick." Wait a second! They didn't even bother letting Jesus know how much Lazarus loved Him--nope! This is the FIRST secret to the miracle they needed. They focused on how much Jesus loved Lazarus! Your breakthrough miracle starts with your absolute certainty that Jesus loves YOU! Oftentimes we feel like we have to love God more in order to get what we want, but that's not how God operates. His love for you is the WHY behind His power. He'll perform miracles in your life because HE LOVES YOU! Another thing I love about the miracle of Lazarus is the timing. Jesus didn't go to Lazarus right away--He waited DAYS. Can you imagine? This seemed odd because Jesus and Lazarus were really good friends; and while he was waiting for Jesus to show up, he died. Even though the story of Lazarus included death, it didn't CONCLUDE in death. You know, something I've learned in my life is that God's timing is always perfect. Lazarus was dead. And it still wasn't too late for God! It's never too late for God, no matter how bad the situation is.

**Wednesday, June 24 – Read John 11:32-40** Yesterday we talked about the first secret to your miracle breakthrough: being certain of God's love for you! Today we're talking about the second secret. Check this out...When Jesus arrived in Bethany and heard that Lazarus had died, He was moved to compassion because He loved him. In John 11:39, Jesus says, "Take away the stone." "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time, he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" No matter how bad your situation is, no matter how dead it seems or looks, it isn't over with God! Jesus was showing Martha the second secret to the miracle breakthrough she needed: if you believe, you will see! Faith works through love! In other words, miracles happen in an atmosphere of faith. When you believe, you will see!

**Thursday, June 25 – Read John 11:41-44** Ok, really quick--the first secret to your miracle breakthrough? The assurance that you are loved! Second, believe before you see. And the third secret to your miracle breakthrough shows up in verses 41-42 of John 11: "So, they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank You that You have heard me. I knew that You always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that You sent me.'" See how Jesus didn't say, "Father, help me" or "Father, give me the power" or "Father, will you?" When Jesus said those powerful words, "Father, I thank You," He was expressing the highest form of faith. The secret to that faith was His gratitude! "When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth!' Lazarus came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'" (John 11:43-44) Jesus already knew God would raise Lazarus from the dead. He knew that God would answer His prayer because Jesus knew God was always listening, and that's why He was thankful. Gratitude is the gateway to miracles. In fact, it's the gateway to God's will for our lives--to a life of happiness and purpose. Are you seeking happiness today? Do you need a miracle in your life? Are you trying to discover God's will for your life? Do you need a breakthrough today?

**Friday, June 26 – Read John 2:9-10** The Gospel of John records seven specific miracles of Jesus that reveal His glory in undeniable ways and teach us eternal truths that can change our lives today! They are often called “sign miracles” as they point to the power and deity of Christ. These were signs that only God could do. The first is found in John 2 where Jesus and His disciples attended a wedding feast. When the wine supply ran out, Jesus’ mother, Mary, approached Him with the problem and told the servants at the feast, “Do whatever He tells you.” Imagine being those servants when Jesus told them to fill six stone jars with water. These jars could hold 20 to 30 gallons of water each. They were typically used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Once they filled the jars with water, Jesus instructed them to take them to the master of ceremonies. You have to give these servants credit for obeying what must not have made any sense to them at the time. Yet they followed the instructions, and when the master of ceremonies tasted the water that had miraculously turned into wine, he called the bridegroom over and said, “This is wonderful stuff! ... You’re different from most. Usually a host uses the best wine first, and afterwards, when everyone is full and doesn’t care, then he brings out the less expensive brands. But you have kept the best for the last!” What a story these servants must have had to tell their families! Living a life of faith is an adventure in seeing God do the miraculous! Faith is obeying God when it doesn’t make sense. It’s risking looking foolish and feeling awkward. Are you going through a season in your life that makes you feel like your best days are in the past? Do you feel like your dream has died? Have you lost hope in things getting better? Look up and take heart. God always begins with the miracle you need most, and He says the best is yet to come! We will look at the other five next week. (We already have covered Lazarus).

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