

MIRACLES WEEK 5 // THE RESURRECTION

For groups meeting in person this week, make sure there is paper cut into strips. There should be three strips of paper for each person. For online groups, make sure you have the ability to chat privately so people can send you something without the rest of the group knowing.

HOST READS OUT LOUD:

Wow... we made it all the way to the last week of our series and you are all here. Now **THAT'S** a miracle! (Hold your hand up for an air high five.) Am I right? (Give a few quick laughs for good measure.)

But seriously, this has been an amazing study... three cheers for us!

[Reading responsibility goes to the person most hesitant to cheer.]

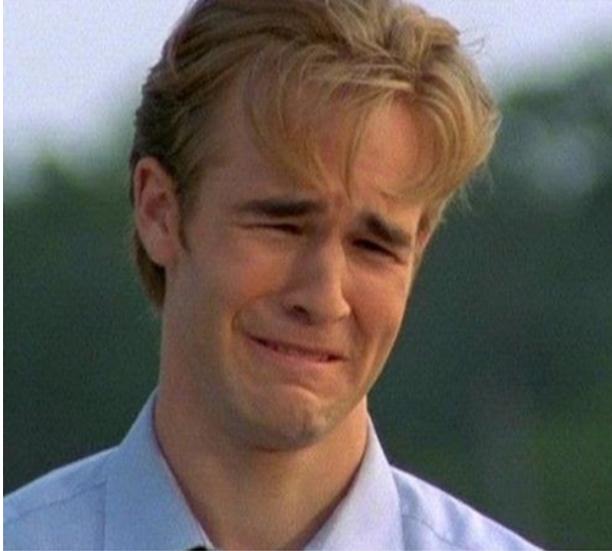
So you didn't wanna cheer, eh?

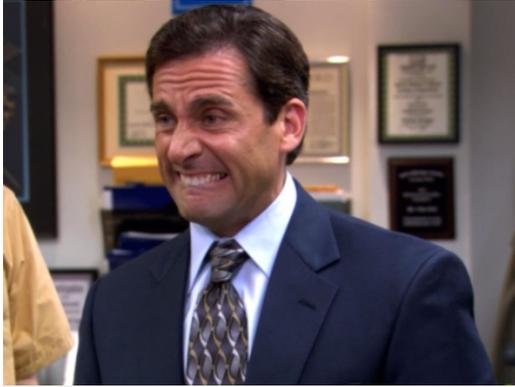
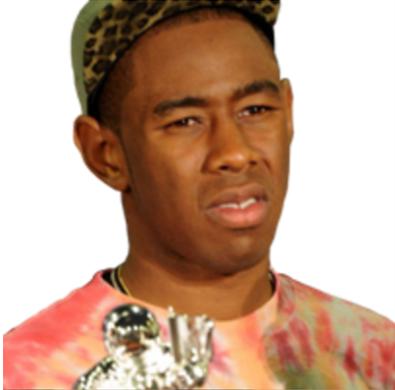
READ OUT LOUD:

For our last week of our series, we wanted to play a quick game of something I personally like to call "caption a picture from this preselected group of pictures game."

First, everyone grab 3 strips of paper if meeting in person or open your chat for online. We also will need someone to set a timer for 10 minutes.

To play this game, we are going to caption a picture from the following pages. I will pick one and hold up one picture, and everyone write down/type a caption that you think best fits the picture. We will give only 30 seconds to give an answer, and then give that answer to me. I will read off the captions and pick the one I think is the best (fits the best, made me laugh, etc.). The winner of this round gets to take my spot for the next round. We will do as many as we can in 10 minutes. Let's get started with our first card and start our timer.







[At the end of 10 minutes, reading responsibility goes to the last winner.]

Congratulations! You may be the last winner, but you're the first one to read this next sentence...

READ OUT LOUD:

This week was all about the most crucial miracle in scripture: Jesus' resurrection. His death and resurrection made it possible for anyone who believes in Him not to perish but have eternal life. Yet, we know not everyone chooses to accept the free gift of salvation.

What are some hurdles that keep people from a relationship with Christ?

While accepting Christ is simple, living for Christ is not always easy. What do you find most challenging about being a Christian? Why?

[Reading responsibility goes to the person most likely to win at 100-meter hurdles.]

READ OUT LOUD:

Have you ever watched one of the extreme makeover shows on TV? Whether they are renovating a house or making over a person, the basic formula is the same. You start with a "before picture," and after a lot of energy and effort, there is a big reveal that showcases the "after picture." What makes these shows fun to watch is seeing the transformation that takes place. As Christ followers, we also have also experienced transformation.

What types of transformation should take place in an ongoing relationship with Christ?

How would your life look different today if you didn't have a relationship with Christ?

[Reading responsibility goes to the person most likely to underestimate the ease of DIY projects.]

Don't be offended. Maybe you're just... optimistic?

READ OUT LOUD:

As we said before, the most important miracle in history is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This historical event changed everything for His followers. Jesus began his ministry by battling Satan for 40 days in the wilderness and ended His ministry by walking the earth for 40 days in victory. During these 40 days, Jesus appeared to more than 500 people who served as a witness to His resurrection as well as to forgive and restore Peter.

On the night Jesus was betrayed, Jesus predicted Peter would deny Him three times. Let's read this account together and listen to what happened next. Turn to Luke 22, and we will have somebody read verses 31-34 and 54-62.

Why do you think there was such a discrepancy between what Peter said he would do and what actually happened?

Verse 54 says, "Peter followed at a distance." In what ways do we follow Jesus at a distance or even deny Him by our actions?

Verse 61 says, "The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter." What kind of look do you imagine Jesus gave Peter, and what do you think they (Jesus and Peter) felt?

[Reading responsibility goes to someone who really wants to walk on water.]

I say go for it! Just remember to stay focused... #justaskpeter

READ OUT LOUD:

About two weeks after Peter's denial of Jesus, Peter and several of the disciples had been fishing all night and had not caught anything. Jesus appears on the shore and tells them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. When they do, they catch so many fish they are unable to haul the nets in. Peter is so excited to see Jesus that he jumps in the water and swims to Him. Let's turn to John 21:15-19 to see what happens next.

Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same question three times?

Jesus told Peter if you love me, you will “feed my lambs, take care of my sheep and feed my sheep.”
What practical implications does this have for us?

[Reading responsibility goes to whoever is most likely to be a shepherd... probably the host.]

A shepherd huh? I “herd” that is a hard job... #lastdadjoke

HOST READS OUT LOUD:

As we get to the end of this series, it’s always good to look back at what we learned and what we are going to DO about it. James 1:22 tells us to not just be hearers but doers.

What is one thing that has stood out to you from this series and what do you want to do about it?

FOR YOUR REFERENCE, HERE IS A RECAP OF THE WEEKS:

- Week 1 - Feeding the 5,000. How can you be the miracle?
- Week 2 - Roof Lowering. Where do you need to pray for healing?
- Week 3 - Lame Man Healed. Are you ready to see others?
- Week 4 - Lord’s Prayer. Do I pray with this attitude?
- Week 5 - The Resurrection. Where do I need transformation?

[After this discussion be sure to take prayer requests and pray for the next steps mentioned as well as the prayer requests.]

IF YOUR GROUP IS NEW: Be sure to discuss plans for continuing to meet together or alternate plans for getting connected to a different group (the groups team would love to get you connected).