

Miracles of Jesus

Teaching Plan

Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing *Miracles of Jesus* to the children, take time to familiarize yourself with the contents. Review this handout and how it correlates to the children's resource.

The resource is designed for children to interact with. Have the children follow along as you read aloud, and engage them in hands-on interaction with the resource, as suggested in the teaching steps below.

Background

Like everything Jesus did, his miracles beautifully illuminate God's love for us. These works of wonder, or "signs," as John's Gospel refers to them, were meant to show people that Jesus was indeed who he said he was—the Son of God. But they also reveal various aspects of God's love, and how Jesus heals, forgives, and saves us. No matter how many times we hear or read about Jesus' miracles, we can always discover something new in these stories of God's love for each of us.

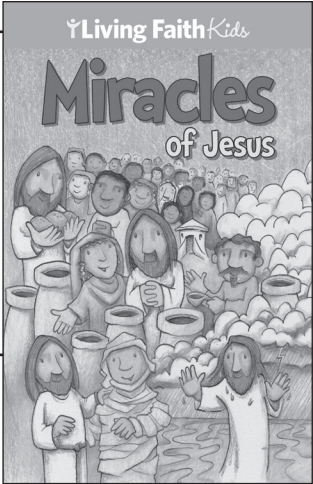
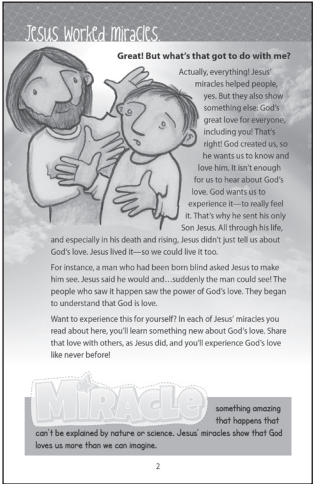
Jesus' miracles are presented in the booklet using a storytelling format meant to relate directly to children's lives. Treat each story as you would if you were reading children their favorite book, or telling them a grand story. Feel free to read with emotion and drama. Remember that you are sharing the greatest story in history; the story that transforms our lives forever.

Opening Prayer

Begin your lessons with prayer. Use the following or modify it each time you pray it with the group.

Loving Father, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to show us how much you love us. Help us see Jesus' love for each of us in his great works of wonder. Amen.

Teaching Steps

Page(s)		
COVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets. Ask, <i>Do you know what a miracle is?</i> (A wonder—something amazing and marvelous) Discuss the art. Ask, <i>Do any of these pictures stand out to you? Why? Ask, Do you recognize any of them, or know what's happening?</i> (All are from John's Gospel: The Multiplication of the Loaves, the Wedding at Cana, the Raising of Lazarus, Walking on the Water) 	
2-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the header and first paragraph on page 2. Ask, <i>Have you ever thought about what Jesus' miracles mean for you in your life?</i> Transition. Ask, <i>What do you think it means that Jesus lived God's love so that we could live it too?</i> Affirm answers. Then say, <i>Let's read more to find out.</i> Read the second paragraph. Have the children underline the sentence in the text: <u>God is love</u>. Say, <i>Let's see what that means for us in Jesus' miracles.</i> Have the children place the sticker as they read the definition of a miracle. Ask, <i>Have you ever heard of any miracles in our world today? How can we thank God for them?</i> Read the first two paragraphs on page 3. Ask, <i>What did Mary do when she saw they needed wine? What can we learn from Mary here?</i> 	

- **Finish reading the page.** Ask, *What are some of the things Jesus shows us?* (Even though we sin, suffer, and die, Jesus' love makes us better. With Jesus, we are stronger and more alive. Jesus brings us eternal life of joy and freedom.)
- **Say the prayer together.** Ask the children to spend a few moments in silence, imagining what kind of person Jesus wants them to be today.
- **Have the children turn to the sticker insert** and find the corresponding sticker to place.
- **Optional extension:** Repeat the prayer and have the children draw a picture of themselves as Jesus sees them. Remind them that Jesus loves them just as they are.



Consider reading one or two pages a day to give each story time to sink in. For each page, follow the steps below:

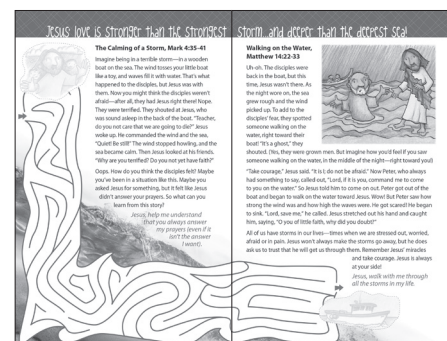
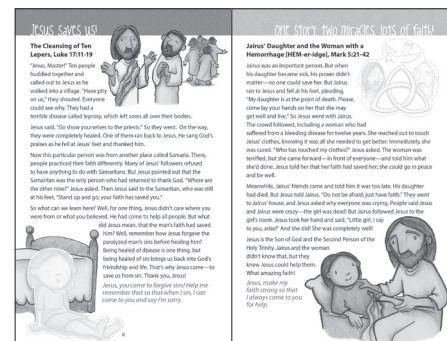
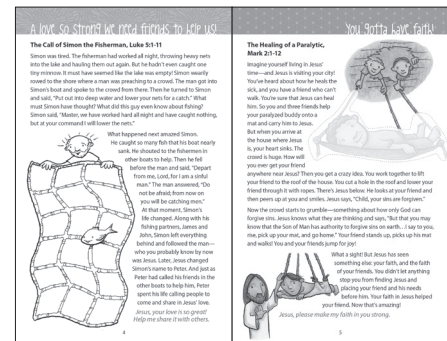
- **Read the header aloud,** or invite one of the children to do so.
- **Read each story slowly** and with emotion.
- **Vary the reading experience.** For a change of pace, ask the children to close their eyes and picture what is happening in the story as you read it.
- **Pause occasionally** to ask questions that relate each story to the children's lives. For example:

Page 5: *Can you think of reasons people might let something stop them from seeking Jesus or asking him for what they need? What can you do when this happens to you?*

Page 9: *What are some "storms," or stresses that come into kids' lives? What can you do about it when it happens to you?*

Page 10: *God gives all of us gifts he wants us to share. What special gifts has he given you that he wants you to share?*

- **Pay particular attention to the pictures of Jesus with children.** Ask the children to picture themselves with Jesus in these situations. What would they like to say to Jesus? What does Jesus say to them?
- **Offer guidance.** If needed, help the children complete the maze on pages 8-9.



4-14

- **Say the prayer together.** Afterwards, have the children spend a few moments in silence reflecting on what it means for them. You might guide them as follows:

Page 6: *Think for a moment about a time you might have sinned lately. Talk about it with Jesus and ask him to forgive you.*

Page 8: *Ask Jesus to help you listen to his answers to your prayers, especially if they aren't the answers you're looking for.*

- **Stickers.** Note that some pages offer specific instructions for placing the stickers.
- **Extension ideas:**

Invite the children to mime or act out their favorite miracle story while you try to guess which one it is.

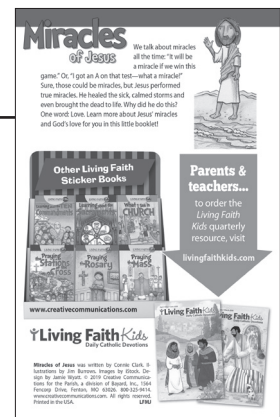
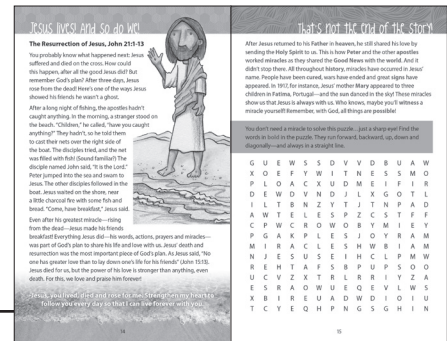
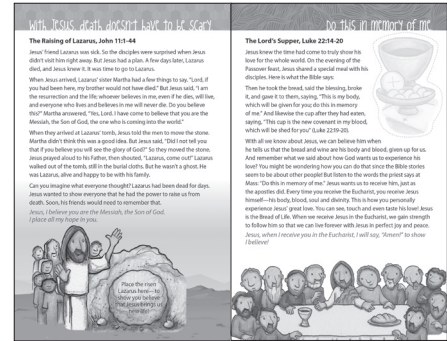
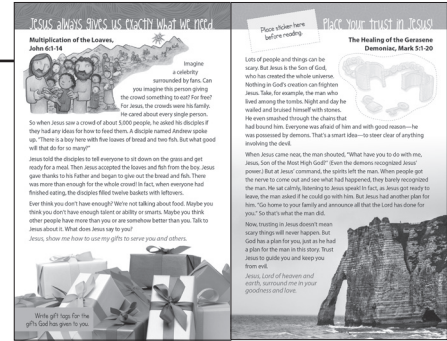
If you have access to a Bible, teach the children how to look up the passages and read them.

Invite the children to draw a story of their favorite miracle.

Have the children pretend they are news reporters interviewing eyewitnesses to one of Jesus' miracle stories.

15

- **Read the paragraph together.** Invite the children to be on the lookout at Sunday Mass for stories of Jesus' miracles proclaimed in the Gospels.
- **Offer assistance,** if needed, to help the children finish the word search activity.



Closing Prayer

Lead the children in prayer. Close with "Amen. Alleluia."

Jesus, thank you for your healing, forgiving, powerful love, which we see in your miracles. Help us spread your love today and always.

Living Faith Kids

Miracles of Jesus was written by Connie Clark and corresponding Teaching Pages developed by Connie Clark, David Dziena, David Mead, and Lindsay Taylor. Illustrations by Jim Burrows. Images by iStock. Design by Jamie Wyatt. © 2020, 2019 Creative Communications for the Parish, a Division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Drive, Fenton, MO 63026, 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

LFMJ-TG