

DISCUSSION GUIDE

gmc WORLD PREMIERE MOVIE

CAMERON
MATHISON

MICHELLE
HARRISON

RYAN
GRANTHAM

SARA-JANE
REDMOND

THE CARPENTER'S MIRACLE

A simple touch changes
everything.



SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MARCH 30 & 31
7, 9 & 11 PM ET



UPLIFTING ENTERTAINMENT

WATCH gmc ON DISH NETWORK CH 188, DIRECTV CH 338 & LOCAL CABLE

THE CARPENTER'S MIRACLE

MOVIE OVERVIEW

A SIMPLE TOUCH CHANGES EVERYTHING

Josh is just an average carpenter in a small town, but when his touch miraculously brings a dead boy back – a boy he tried valiantly to save when he fell into a freezing lake – things spin totally out of control. The media quickly rushes to promote this feel-good Easter story and proclaims that it is a real miracle. However, there are those who are determined to debunk the entire story through any means necessary and Josh and the boy's mother are thrust into a whirlwind they never expected. Through humor and faith and a budding romance, Josh works at returning to his normal life. Based on the book by the same name by Judd Parkin. Stars: Cameron Mathison, Michelle Harrison, Ryan Grantham, Aaron Pearl.



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THE CARPENTER'S
MIRACLE
STUDY GUIDES

- 1. DISCUSSION OUTLINE**
- 2. PRE-VIEWING GROUP DISCUSSION**
- 3. POST-VIEWING GROUP DISCUSSION**
- 4. SELF-STUDY**



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1. DISCUSSION OUTLINE

PURPOSE:

1. Help people get closer to the truth about miracles
2. Define the difficulties in discerning the truth on this topic
3. Help people become more aware of how their worldview determines their conclusions on the topic of miracles
4. Help people become more aware of the supernatural.

Bible: MATTHEW 9:18-34

OPENING QUESTION:

What are we going to do today about the disconnect between the miracle-full stories of the Bible and the seemingly wonder-lacking world we live in?

- Matthew (9:18-34) tells us of confusion and controversy surrounding the miracles of Jesus.
- We think of Jesus having an easy time of it when he was performing miracles, but the opposite is true.
- This year's Easter movie, *The Carpenter's Miracle* on **gmc**, fires up our imaginations about what kind of confusion and controversy would surround miracles in contemporary Middle America.

What is it about you and me that *so yearns for the wondrous and miraculous* to intervene in our lives, but yet we **doubt, gossip, argue, and threaten others** when wonders do indeed occur?

LET'S BRING SOME CLARITY:

1. Everyone has a world-view, an operating system, if you will.

ILLUSTRATION: the different operating systems for smart phones: Apple, Droid, Microsoft, etc. We also have, each of us, a worldview that creates a coherent pattern for functioning in the world.

2. Many Americans operate with a pragmatic, skeptical, scientific, seeing-is-believing worldview.
3. This is in conflict with the worldview of the Bible and the worldview of most of the people in the developing world, which is deeply spiritual in nature.

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1. DISCUSSION OUTLINE *Continued*

For Jesus, the label for this biblical worldview was: Kingdom. Supernatural rule of all the events around us. The miraculous is the normal state of affairs, not an occasional exception. This is a foreign way of thinking to many Americans, including many church-goers!

4. The film *The Carpenter's Miracle* is a fascinating imagination-exercise for what it would be like in a small town if these two worldviews – the pragmatic/scientific and the supernatural – collided. The result is a lot of creative confusion that makes us think about how we would act in this situation.
5. What is your “operating system?” Are you skeptical of all miracles? Do you allow for them, but see them as God “bending the usual law of nature” for a certain purpose? Or is this room full of spiritual energy emanating from the Creator; a dynamic manifestation where anything is possible? What “operating system” boots up when you get up in the morning?
 - Skeptical of miracles
 - Miracles are an occasional exception in the law of nature
 - Everything is spiritual and dynamic; miracles are all around us
6. Your worldview will determine how you react when you hear about miracles. It determines our conclusions before the miracle in question even occurs.



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2. PRE-VIEWING GROUP DISCUSSION

- We will be watching the movie, *The Carpenter's Miracle*.

- Give details of airtime and/or video viewing

- Share a synopsis of the film:

A simple touch changes everything.

Josh is just an average carpenter in a small town, but when his touch miraculously brings a dead boy back to life, things spin totally out of control.

The media quickly rushes to promote this feel-good story and proclaims that it is a real miracle. However, there are those who are determined to debunk the entire story through any means necessary.

Josh is soon thrust into a role that even he can't believe. Filled with humor, love, and the power of faith, *Miracle* is a heartwarming Easter tale that will convince you life is filled with all kinds of miracles.

- This is a chance to prepare ourselves so we get the most out of it.
- Encourage people to invite friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to watch the movie.

- Discussion questions:

- Have you ever made yourself see a miracle that really wasn't there?

- Do you think that belief can sometimes be wishful thinking?

- Are some people given the "gift of healing" by God? Or is it available to everyone?

- Is healing dependent on the faith of the recipient?

- Do we think, theologize, and speculate too much on healing rather than just believing and "going for it?"

- Are children better at praying for healing than adults? What can we learn from them?

- Do you think lack of faith and openness to God's power can stop the flow of miracles?

READ MARK 6:1-5:

- What do you think would happen if the miracles of Jesus started occurring in your neighborhood? Would there be mostly joy or confusion?

- Do you have a specific healing story to share with the group?



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3. POST-VIEWING GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What did everyone think?
2. What did everyone feel? What part of the story moved you the most, emotionally?
3. With which character did you most relate?
4. Which character was the most dynamic (i.e. changed the most)?

PRAYER

Read Matthew 9:18-34 as a group.

- What parallels do you see between the movie and the Bible story?
- Do you tend to believe in miracles?
- How superstitious are you?
- Do you think that people wanting to believe in miracles, like Luther (with his dog), see things that aren't really true because they want to see them? Wishful thinking?
- Is there such a thing as "false hope?" Or is hope just something you either have or you don't?
- Was the point of the movie that both:
 - Those who too eagerly want to see miracles
 - Those who doubt miracles—can be wrong in their own way?
- Are there people with special "healing gifts?"
- Could you be one of those people?

READ: John 14:12-14

CLOSING PRAYER



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THE CARPENTER'S MIRACLE

4. SELF STUDY

- Watch the movie *The Carpenter's Miracle*.
- Find a quiet place. Have a Bible handy, and something with which to write.
- Pray and quiet your spirit. Come to rest. Let go of any distracting emotions.
- **Read Matthew 9: 18-34**
- Meditate on the parallels between the movie and the Bible passage.
- Look at your hands for a moment. Do you believe that your hands, with God's help, can heal?
- **Read John 14:12**
- Look at your hands again. Repeat the question. Write your answer here_____.
- Think of one person you can physically touch and pray for in the near future. Put his or her name down here_____.
- Pray for an opportunity for this to take place. ***A simple touch can change everything.***

Come to rest again. Cultivate a sense of gratefulness in your heart for God.

Go about the rest of your day in peace.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Envision the "Kingdom" worldview that Jesus taught. He believed this power was available to all of us:

BIBLE: John 14:12-14

The ways to change worldview are simple:

- 1. Read more Bible.** Every day. The Bible is written assuming a spiritual-charged worldview.
- 2. Pray.** Open yourself up to the spiritual (Kingdom) realm every day. Cultivate your ability to "abide" there for longer and longer periods of time. Eventually it will overpower your current non-miraculous, pragmatic world view.
- 3. Interact with other believers.** Peer reinforcement is everything.

PRAYER



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