

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

This weekend we began a new series of messages on Miracles. This week's message focused on God's genius and power to create the universe and everything in it. As creator He can, as He chooses, perform miracles – interrupting the normal principles of life and intercede in powerful ways. Over the next seven weeks, we will dig into seven miracles of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. The guiding question for each week that seeks to challenge and deepen our faith is: **Do you believe that the God of supernatural powers also cares for you personally?**

Jumping in:

1. Recall a commercial, movie, or song from your teenage years that draws you back to a particular time and place?
2. What memories or feelings does that bring to your mind?

Digging in:

Read Genesis 1:1-3

What did the speaker say about memories or thoughts that hearing Gen. 1:1-3 would bring about for the Jewish audience? How do you respond to these words?

Read John 1:1-7, 14

What did the speaker say about the thoughts John 1:1-3 would bring to the Greek Christians and Jewish Christians of John's? How do you respond to these words?

He is telling our story... for believers, the following passages tell us so much about our spiritual heritage. God the Father, through Jesus the Son, with the abiding Holy Spirit – 3 in 1, 1 in 3 – created out of nothing, everything. Like a potter throwing mud, his wheel turning it into a work of art, so Yahweh, the Great I Am, molded the universe hands-free! He merely spoke and His idea of the universe – bang, some call it a big bang – happened. This bang was not arbitrary or meaningless evolution but purposeful. He used clear principles to operate and order creation. He created unnumbered plants and animals and topped it all off with making man and women in His image.

Allow the miracles involved in creation and the way Genesis 1 and John 1 describe this sink into your soul. For God so loved He created all of this (think universe) and you and me (think personal, intimate, close). As we explore "in the beginning" and the miracles in the gospel of John, mind-blowing truth will open our eyes and souls to the power and purposes of God. Exploring miracles will leave us with mouths agape and souls in awe so we worship in humility and enthusiastic joy. Exploring miracles will challenge our faith to believe the impossible still happens today. Exploring miracles will reaffirm that HE alone is God and we are not: That God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is The Priority. Miracles will help us *keep first things first*. When we love Him with all our heart, mind and soul and our neighbors as ourselves, we live into the reason for the miracle of creation: All of it is God's love gift to us. Even though we have knocked His gift(s) off the shelves of our lives and smashed them, miracles show that he is putting it all back together again. This is our redemption story! It all began like this....

According to Gen. 1:1-3

1. What existed before creation?
2. How did God create the heavens and the earth?
3. Where did He get the materials to create the universe?

According to John 1:1-3

1. What details do these verses add to the questions asked above?
2. What existed before creation?
3. How did God create the heavens and the earth?
4. Where did He get the materials to create the universe?

Going Deeper:

John 1

"...was the Word". Now follow me closely here: the Greek word for the word "Word" is "logos". Greek is the language the gospel of John was originally written in. That is just as loaded as "In the beginning".

Logos is the foundational term of Stoic Greek philosophy which they would define as the "rational principle by which everything existed". It's the common foundation that makes rational sense of the world. Using the word "Logos" would cause every Greek speaking Christian to think, "Oh, he's telling "our" story!" He is declaring that the life principle we call logos has a name! It is a person. It is Jesus! Mind blowing!

"The Word became human" (John 1:14). **William Barclay "Single greatest verse in the New Testament and definitely the reason for which John wrote his gospel."**

From the supernatural power to create all we know and see; it is a small step to understand that the one who created everything can perform miracles. God's miracles reveal His character.

Every single miracle in the Old and New Testament is done for the purpose of provision, protection, healing and somehow helping those He loves so dearly. Each miracle illustrates God is not only a God of ultimate power but He's also a God of ultimate love.

1. Do you believe God has and is still capable of performing miracles?
2. Do you believe that the God of supernatural powers also cares for you personally?

How do miracles fit into your faith?

Define faith as read through the following verses:

Eph 2:8-9

1 Peter 1:8-9 (NLT uses trust or trusting in place of the word faith.)

Hebrews 11:1-3

Conclusion:

If our faith story begins in Gen. 1:1-3 and continues in John 1:1-7, 14, ask yourself: "Do I have faith that God will really do big things in my life or in the lives of those around me?" If I do, I will be asking Him to do those things!

As the speaker challenged us, what **Big Hairy Audacious Prayer** can you ask by faith for God to do for you or those you love?

Share that with your group or someone else if you are using this individually.

Ask God every day to do one personal miracle, one BHAP.

