

preparing for action

going deeper

When you're studying a biblical story, it's good to remember that every detail of the story is there for a reason. In today's message, I highlighted two details in particular:

1. Getting their supplies ready.
2. Consecrating themselves spiritually.

Next I posed a question: Were those two points only applicable to those Hebrews at that moment, or is there a current, spiritual application there for us? After reflecting on other passages, like **1 Peter 3:13**, I realized preparation for our partnership with God is a solid, transferrable principle.

You try it: Read **II Samuel 5:17-21**. How did David handle his situation? Is there anything about his behavior that applies to us today? What about for you this week? Are there other verses that come to mind that reinforce this idea?

Miracle opportunities come primarily as interruptions: They are usually un-planned, un-forseen, and inconvenient. This does not mean we can't _____ for them. Good prep is:

1. Practical. "**Go through the camp and tell the people, "Get your Supplies ready"** (Joshua 1: 10,11).
2. Spiritual. "**Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you"** (Joshua 3:5).

"Prepare your mind for action" (1 Peter 3:13)

Galatians 3:1-5:

"Faith is the *substance* of things hoped for, the *evidence* of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV).

Lens adjustments:

1. God is not an aloof tactician; he wants people to partner with him in his miraculous work.
2. God's real work for me will often come in the form of an interruption, not a plan.
3. Miracle opportunities may fall in my lap, but miracles will only happen as I step across the line of faith and fear.
4. God is the only one that can do miracles, but he tends to use predictable ingredients in his partnership with us: nudges, interruptions, cues, and prompts.
5. God routinely uses deeply flawed people to do amazing things.

Preparing for common miracles:

Finances:

Practical: The "God pocket."

Spiritual: Surrendering your finances.

Forgiveness:

Practical: Understanding: Forgiveness is not just an attitude, or even just a decision; it's an intimate transaction during which very real things are both given and received.

Spiritual: Deal with your own forgiveness issues.

Salvation:

Practical: Understand how to help someone give their lives to Christ.

Spiritual: Let Christ's love cast out your fear (1 John 4:18).

Healing:

Practical: Biblical principles (such as the role of touch & voice).

Spiritual: Live (and give) as a branch on the vine (John 15).

FAITH@HOME: D

ONE STEP AT A TIME.



Dalhousie Community Church

Lord, I will work through this **Faith@Home** material this week: _____

FOR YOU

When: _____

Which of the “lens adjustments” need the most work in your heart and mind? Talk frankly to God about that, asking him to change what you believe where needed.

FOR COUPLES

When: _____

Take a twenty minute block of time to talk about Sunday’s message. How can you better prepare as a couple for the miracle moments God has planned for you in the next two weeks?

FOR PARENTS

When: _____

A very real part of faith involves using our imaginations to envision the changes we believe God would like to make in a given situation (a sick person is well, an enemy becomes a friend, etc).

Preschool parents: When praying for a concrete situation (i.e., a sick person), ask your child to close their eyes and imagine (picture in their mind) what they think God wants to do. “Are they sick, or feeling better? Are they sad, or happy? Let’s pray that God would do that for them.”

K-6 parents: Apply the instructions, above, explaining them at your child’s developmental level. Add one more element, though: Imagine, “What might God want us to do to help?”

Youth parents: Discuss what stood out to you about Sunday’s message, and why. Discuss the definition of faith on page 1 and what that might mean in daily life. Help each other begin a “God-pocket” and see where it goes!

Older/grand parents: Pray for your children and grandchildren as you often do, but this time, pray as though your faith is some of the substance (the raw material) God is going to use to manifest his will for them.

FOR FRIENDS / LIFE GROUPS

1. Briefly re-cap Sunday’s message, then use these questions to guide discussion as needed:
2. What stood out to you about Sunday’s message, and why?
3. What do you think of the idea that we can prepare “practically” for God’s miracle moments?
4. Do you take time to regularly prepare spiritually for your part in God’s miracle moments? Why or why not?
5. Which of the “lens adjustments” need the most work in your life, and why?
6. Discuss the idea of the God-pocket together as a group, then commit to doing it together.
7. Why do you think we see fewer healing miracles in North America than in other places in the world?
8. Read John 15:1-17 as a group. What can you learn about delivering God’s miracles from this passage?
9. What will you do about it right now (at the Life Group meeting)? This week?