

# going deeper

One of my favorite ways to study the Bible is to do “micro-surgery” on a smaller chunk of scripture—opening my heart to the Holy Spirit as I analyze words, reflect on phrases & imagery, that kind of thing.

There are amazing insights you can glean from studying individual trees. But sometimes God reveals life-changing truths by leading us to step back and notice the forest. Today’s point about divine interruptions wouldn’t have occurred to me by studying one story at a time, for example.

**You try it:** Sit down and read the book of Galatians in one sitting (it may take you fifteen to twenty minutes. What stands out to you the most? What do you think is Paul’s “main” point?

# the HEART of GOD

“Everyone you encounter has an unmet need God wants to meet, very possibly through you.”

A miracle is God’s will wrapped in God’s love delivered by God’s power.

God has a master plan for reaching the world for Christ.

## Matthew 8 & 9:

Jesus was continuously “interrupted.”

“**My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways” (Isaiah 55:8)**

God’s will often collide with our human planning.

## Luke 10:30-36:

The story of two men who didn’t embrace God’s interruptions and one who did.

The proverbial fork in the road is usually a person in need that gets in your space.

God drops miracle appointments in our laps, so close that we actually have to try to avoid them. Many times we miss the miraculous because we’re stuck in the rut of our own plans and priorities.

A miraculous life is a life punched full of divinely orchestrated interruptions.

“The interruptions are the ministry.” ~ Neil Block

We must pre-commit to yield our rights to Jesus whenever he asks us to serve those in need.

\* Does this mean we should always engage with every distraction because all of them are from God? No; we’ll address that in a few weeks.

# FAITH@HOME: miraculous: PARTNERSHIP



## FOR YOU

Express a prayer to God pre-committing to surrender your rights in the face of his divine interruptions. I highly recommend writing it out, dating it, and sticking it in your Bible or even on the fridge.

## FOR COUPLES

It's guaranteed that you'll be up to something this week that your partner will interrupt, which gives you a chance to practice today's message by serving each other.

## FOR PARENTS

The best teaching is usually modeling, so ask God for a divine interruption that comes while your kids are around. Seize the moment, then explain it to your kids afterward: "Mommy, why did you give that man money?" "I just felt like God wanted me to, honey."

**Preschool parents:** Re-tell the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-36), then re-enact it. You be the injured person, ask them to be the Good Samaritan.

**K-6 parents:** Explain Sunday's message as best you can using the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-36). Pray together as a family about living like this.

**Youth parents:** Discuss Sunday's message and pray together about applying it to your lives. Later this week ask them if they've noticed any "divine interruptions" and what they did about it. Share from your own experiences too, even if they involve frustrations.

**Older/grand parents:** Take the time to share what you've learned with your adult children and pray that they will learn to embrace God's interruptions too.

## FOR LIFE GROUPS

Follow through with your Life Group using these questions:

1. Take at least ten minutes this week for a "5-2Thrive update." Did they use the jars? How did it go? Why?
2. Briefly re-cap Sunday's message.
3. Did you experience any situations that may have been "divine interruptions?" Do share!
4. Re-study **Matthew 8 and 9**. Which of Jesus' interruptions stand out to you, and why?
5. What else do you notice about Christ's interruptions and how he handled them?
6. Brad defined a miracle as "God's will wrapped in God's love delivered through God's power." Using that definition, what various forms did Christ's miracles take in these chapters?
7. How might you have handled this typical day or two in the life of Jesus?
8. What do you think God is saying to you through this study? What will you do about it?