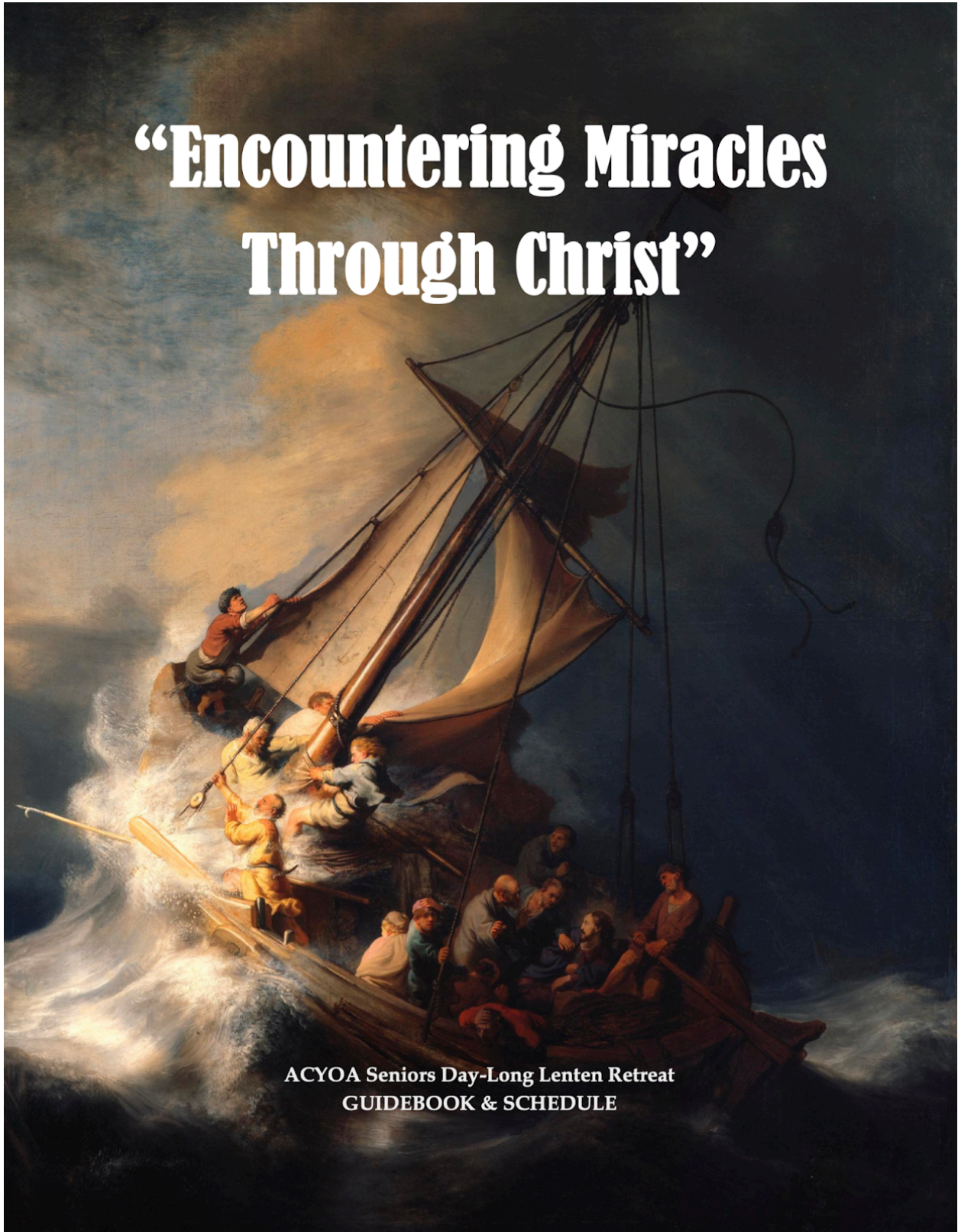


# **“Encountering Miracles Through Christ”**



**ACYOA Seniors Day-Long Lenten Retreat  
GUIDEBOOK & SCHEDULE**



## “Encountering Miracles Through Christ”

### HOW TO USE THIS RETREAT GUIDEBOOK

#### A NOTE TO FACILITATORS

This guidebook is designed to support both clergy and lay leaders in leading a meaningful, Christ-centered retreat experience. You do **not** need to be a theologian or an experienced retreat leader to use this material. The guidebook provides the structure, language, and flow to thoughtfully and prayerfully guide participants through the day. Each session includes background information, Scripture reflections, activities, and discussion questions. Facilitators are encouraged to read through the sessions ahead of time, but it is acceptable to **read directly from the guidebook** during the retreat if needed.

#### PURPOSE OF THE RETREAT

This retreat invites participants to encounter Jesus Christ through His miracles—not simply as extraordinary events, but as moments of compassion, healing, trust, and transformation. Through Scripture, reflection, discussion, and prayer, participants are encouraged to recognize Christ’s presence in their own lives and to consider how His miracles continue today.

#### YOUR ROLE AS A FACILITATOR

As a facilitator, your role is to:

- Create a **welcoming and respectful environment**
- Guide participants through the material provided
- Encourage reflection and sharing without forcing participation
- Keep the group focused on Christ and the Scriptures

You are **not** expected to have all the answers. The goal is not to resolve every question, but to help participants listen—to God, to Scripture, and to one another.

#### HOW EACH SESSION IS ORGANIZED

Each session in this guidebook follows the same structure:

- **A Note to Facilitators** – guidance specific to that session
- **Overview** – explains the purpose and focus of the session
- **Scripture Focus** – passages to be read or summarized



- **Read & Reflect** – written reflections to be read aloud or paraphrased
- **Activity** – step-by-step instructions for interactive engagement
- **Discussion Questions** – prompts to guide conversation
- **In Closing** – a short transition or concluding reflection

## GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

- Encourage participants to speak from **personal experience**, not theory.
- Allow silence when it occurs—reflection often happens quietly.
- Avoid correcting or debating responses.
- Gently redirect the conversation if it becomes overly analytical, therapeutic, or off-topic.
- Remind participants that sharing is always **voluntary**.

## TIME MANAGEMENT

Each session includes suggested timing. Do your best to stay on schedule so the retreat flows smoothly. If the discussion is especially rich, it is okay to move on and trust that the conversation will continue informally later in the day. It is better to leave participants wanting more than to rush important moments. This retreat is not about perfect delivery. It is about creating space for Christ to work. Trust the material, trust the process, and trust that God is present in the gathering.

### 10:00–10:15 AM - Arrival & Welcome

- **Coffee, bagels, nametags**  
*(No prayer here — keep it informal)*

### 10:15–10:45 AM - Morning Prayer Service

- [Diocesan Summer Camps Morning Service](#)

### 10:45–11:00 AM - Introductions & Icebreakers — Creating Sacred Space

#### A NOTE TO FACILITATORS

This opening segment helps participants feel comfortable, seen, and connected before entering deeper reflection. The goal is **connection**, not performance. Keep the atmosphere welcoming and relaxed. Choose **one or two activities only**, depending on group size and time available. Do not attempt to complete all activities.

#### PURPOSE

Before engaging Scripture and reflection, participants need to feel at ease with one another. These icebreakers are designed to build trust, encourage gentle sharing, and introduce the retreat's themes without pressure or forced vulnerability. Begin with an opening prayer, especially if there was no opportunity to hold a morning service.



## **OPENING PRAYER (optional)**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
We come before You today with grateful hearts.  
We bring with us our joys and our burdens,  
our hopes and our doubts,  
our faith and our questions.  
As we gather for this retreat, open our eyes to see You,  
open our ears to hear Your voice,  
and open our hearts to receive Your healing and compassion.  
Meet us where we are.  
Calm the storms within us.  
Strengthen our trust in You.  
May this time together help us encounter You more deeply  
and recognize Your presence in our lives and in one another.  
For You are the source of life, hope, and mercy,  
now and always. Amen!

## **BEGINNING THE SESSION & ICEBREAKER OPTIONS**

Begin by inviting participants to introduce themselves briefly by sharing:

- Their **name**
- Their **parish**
- Encourage introductions to remain brief so that everyone has time to participate.

### **OPTION 1: MIRACLE MOMENT**

**Overview:** This activity invites participants to reflect on moments in their lives when something unexpected, meaningful, or clearly providential occurred.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Invite each participant (or a few volunteers, depending on time) to share briefly:

- A moment when they experienced God's presence, guidance, or care in a surprising way
- Encourage participants to keep their sharing short (1–2 sentences).
- This is not a testimony session. Some participants may choose not to share, which is perfectly acceptable.

### **OPTION 2: MATCHING MIRACLE**

**Overview:** This activity introduces participants to the miracles of Jesus in a light and engaging way. Before the retreat, prepare cards:

- Half with **miracle titles** (e.g., *Walking on Water*)
- Half with **Scripture references or key figures** (e.g., *Peter / John 6:16–21*)



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute one card to each participant.
2. Ask participants to move around the room and find the person whose card matches theirs.
3. Once matched, invite pairs to briefly introduce themselves to one another.

This activity reinforces familiarity with Scripture while encouraging interaction.

### OPTION 3: “WHAT’S YOUR STORM?” (ANONYMOUS WARM-UP)

**Overview:** This activity gently introduces the theme of trust and struggle without requiring personal disclosure.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute small index cards to participants.
2. Ask them to write **one word** that describes a “storm” they have faced.
3. Instruct participants **not to write their names**.
4. Collect, shuffle, and read several cards aloud.

## REFLECTION PROMPT

After reading a few cards, ask:

- *“What do these storms tell us about the community gathered here today?”*

Allow a few brief responses, then move forward.

## IN CLOSING

Thank participants for their openness and presence. Remind them that the retreat is a shared journey and that listening is as valuable as speaking. Transition gently into the first session, emphasizing that Christ meets us exactly where we are.

## 11:00–11:40 AM - SESSION 1: Miracles of Healing — Christ Meets Our Brokenness

### A NOTE TO FACILITATORS

This opening session sets the spiritual tone for the retreat. It invites participants to reflect on healing not only as physical restoration, but as Christ’s compassionate response to human brokenness. Encourage thoughtful sharing, but do not rush participants or pressure them to speak. Some may prefer to listen during this first session, which is completely acceptable.

## OVERVIEW

In the Gospels, Jesus’ healing miracles reveal His deep compassion and His desire to restore the whole person—body, soul, and spirit. These encounters show us that healing often involves faith, perseverance, and the support of others. In this session, participants will reflect on three healing miracles and consider how Christ continues to meet us in our own brokenness today.



## SCRIPTURE

- **Mark 2:1–12** — The Paralytic Lowered Through the Roof
- **Mark 5:25–34** — The Woman with the Issue of Blood
- **John 9:1–12** — The Man Born Blind

## READ & REFLECT

### **The Paralytic Lowered Through the Roof (Mark 2:1–12)**

This miracle takes place in a crowded house where a paralyzed man cannot reach Jesus on his own. His friends refuse to be discouraged by obstacles. They climb onto the roof, break through it, and lower their friend down to Jesus.

Jesus' response is surprising. Before healing the man physically, He forgives his sins. This reminds us that true healing is not limited to the body. Christ desires to restore the whole person.

This miracle also highlights the importance of community. The paralytic is healed not only because of his own faith, but because others carried him when he could not move on his own.

### **The Woman with the Issue of Blood (Mark 5:25–34)**

This woman has suffered for twelve years and is considered ritually unclean. She lives on the margins of society—unseen and isolated. Yet she believes that even touching Jesus' garment will be enough to heal her.

Her faith is quiet and personal, but persistent. When Jesus realizes what has happened, He stops and calls her forward—not to shame her, but to restore her dignity publicly.

This miracle teaches us that faith does not need to be loud or visible to others. Christ sees and responds to even hidden suffering.

### **The Man Born Blind (John 9:1–12)**

When Jesus encounters the man born blind, He challenges the belief that suffering is always the result of personal sin. Instead, He reveals that this man's life will become a place where God's works are made visible.

As the story unfolds, the man's physical sight is restored, but his spiritual understanding also grows. He moves from simply identifying Jesus as "the man," to recognizing deeper truth—even when faced with opposition. This miracle reminds us that encountering Christ can change how we see ourselves and the world around us.

## ACTIVITY: "STAND IN THEIR SHOES"

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide participants into small groups.
2. Assign each group one of the three Scripture passages.
3. Ask each group to read their passage slowly together.
4. Invite them to discuss the questions below.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What physical or emotional suffering is present in this story?
- What act of faith do you see?
- What does Jesus reveal about who He is in this encounter?

Allow approximately **10–12 minutes** for small-group discussion.

## GROUP DEBRIEF

Bring everyone back together and invite brief reflections from the group.

Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- How do these healing miracles speak to brokenness in our lives today?
- Where do we see a need for healing—personally or within our communities?

Encourage short responses. Avoid trying to resolve or fix what is shared.

## IN CLOSING

Remind participants that Jesus' healing miracles are signs of His compassion and His desire to restore what is broken. Healing may come in many forms, and sometimes it unfolds over time. Christ meets us where we are and invites us to trust Him with our wounds.

This session prepares us to reflect next on how Christ meets us not only in illness, but also in fear, uncertainty, and moments when life feels overwhelming.

## **11:40 AM–12:30 PM - SESSION 2: Miracles Over Nature — Storms & Bread**

### A NOTE TO FACILITATORS

This session invites participants to reflect on fear, uncertainty, and scarcity in their lives, and to encounter Jesus Christ as the One who brings peace and provision. Encourage honest sharing, but do not pressure participants to disclose anything they are uncomfortable sharing. This is not a problem-solving session; it is a space for reflection, trust, and prayerful listening.

### OVERVIEW

In the Gospels, miracles over nature reveal Jesus not only as Lord over creation, but as Lord over fear and human limitation. The disciples encounter storms while following Jesus, and crowds experience abundance when what little they offer is placed in His hands.

In this session, participants will reflect on two miracles:

- Jesus calming the storm
- Jesus feeding the five thousand

Together, these stories invite us to examine how we respond to chaos, fear, and feelings of insufficiency—and how Christ meets us in those moments.



## SCRIPTURE

- **Matthew 8:23–27** — Jesus Calms the Storm
- **John 6:1–14** — Feeding of the Five Thousand

## READ & REFLECT

### **Jesus Calms the Storm (Matthew 8:23–27)**

The disciples are doing exactly what Jesus asked—following Him—yet they find themselves caught in a violent storm. Jesus is asleep in the boat, while the disciples panic, convinced that they are perishing. When Jesus awakens, He addresses their fear before calming the storm. His words, “*Why are you afraid?*”, remind us that the storm itself is not the deepest issue—fear is.

This miracle teaches us that following Christ does not eliminate storms from life. Rather, it reveals where we place our trust when storms arise. Jesus’ presence brings peace, even when circumstances feel overwhelming.

### **Feeding the Five Thousand (John 6:1–14)**

A large crowd gathers around Jesus, and a practical problem emerges—there is not enough food. What is available seems insignificant: five loaves and two fish.

Instead of dismissing the small offering, Jesus receives it, gives thanks, and distributes it. Everyone eats and is satisfied, and there is more left over than what they began with.

This miracle shows that Christ works not through abundance alone, but through trust. When what little we have is offered to God, He multiplies it in ways beyond our understanding.

## ACTIVITY: “STORMS & BREAD”

### Part 1: Storms

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Distribute small index cards to participants.
2. Ask them to write down a “storm” they are facing, or one affecting someone they love.
3. Remind participants **not to write their name**—the cards will be shared anonymously.
4. Collect the cards, shuffle them, and read several aloud.

#### DISCUSS:

- What fears or struggles do we hear reflected in these storms?
- How does Jesus respond to fear and chaos in the Gospel story?



## Part 2: Bread

Place a basket of small pieces of bread at the center of the room.

Read **John 6:11** aloud slowly.

Invite participants to reflect and discuss:

- What does it mean to offer what little we have to God?
- Where do we struggle to trust that what we offer is enough?

## DISCUSSION

Use the questions below to guide group conversation as time allows:

- What are some “storms” that our generation faces today?
- How can we offer our “loaves and fish” to God in practical ways?

## Helpful hints: Additional “Storms” Our Generation Faces

- Anxiety, depression, and burnout
- Loneliness and isolation, even in a hyper-connected world
- Financial pressure and economic uncertainty
- Fear about the future (career, family, stability)
- Constant comparison through social media
- Broken relationships and family tension
- Loss of trust in institutions and leaders
- War, violence, and global instability
- Environmental concerns and climate anxiety
- A crisis of meaning, identity, and purpose

## How We Can “Offer Our Loaves and Fish” to God

- Offering **time** when we feel too busy
- Offering **trust** when we feel uncertain or afraid
- Offering **small acts of service** that seem insignificant
- Offering **our wounds and struggles**, not just our strengths
- Offering **consistency** in prayer, even when it feels dry
- Offering **what we have**, not what we wish we had
- Offering **compassion and presence** to those who are hurting
- Offering **obedience in small things**, trusting God with the outcome

## IN CLOSING

Remind participants that Jesus does not promise a life without storms or challenges, but He does promise His presence. Whether calming the sea or feeding the hungry, Christ reveals Himself as faithful, compassionate, and trustworthy. Invite participants to carry these reflections into the upcoming time of quiet journaling and prayer.



## 12:30–1:00 PM — Quiet Reflection / Journaling

- Silent prayer
- Journaling prompts:
  - *Reflect on sessions 1 and 2, and ask yourself what is one thing God is saying to you?*
  - *Where do you sense Christ calling you to deeper trust?*
- Play soft instrumental music

## 1:00–1:30 PM — Lunch & Fellowship

- Informal conversation
- Optional Table Conversation Prompts:
  - *Share a time when you felt God calm a storm in your life.*
  - *Recall a moment when small, faithful actions led to unexpected or lasting blessings.*
  - *What do miracles look like in everyday faith and daily living?*
  - *Having participated in the first two sessions, what “miracles” from daily life can we recall from recent weeks?*

## 1:30–2:15 PM - SESSION 3: Miracles of Compassion & Inclusion — Christ Restores the Excluded

### A NOTE TO FACILITATORS

This session touches on grief, exclusion, gratitude, and mercy. Some participants may connect these stories to personal or communal pain. Create a respectful and attentive atmosphere, allowing participants to share at their own comfort level. This session is not meant to resolve injustice or suffering, but to help participants see how Jesus responds to those who are overlooked or marginalized.

### OVERVIEW

Many of Jesus’ miracles take place on the margins of society. He notices those who are grieving, excluded, or forgotten, and restores not only their physical well-being but also their dignity and place in the community.

In this session, participants will reflect on two miracles that reveal Christ’s compassion:

- Raising the widow’s son at Nain
- Healing the ten lepers

Together, these stories invite us to consider who is “on the outside” today and how Christ calls us to extend His mercy.

### SCRIPTURE

- **Luke 7:11–17** — Raising the Widow’s Son at Nain
- **Luke 17:11–19** — Healing of the Ten Lepers



## **READ & REFLECT**

### **Raising the Widow’s Son at Nain (Luke 7:11–17)**

Jesus encounters a funeral procession as He approaches the town of Nain. The woman leading the procession is a widow who has now lost her only son. She is experiencing deep grief and complete vulnerability.

Before anyone asks Him for help, Jesus notices her sorrow and is moved with compassion. He touches the bier and raises the young man to life, restoring him to his mother. This miracle reveals Jesus as One who enters human suffering without being asked. His compassion is proactive, and His power restores both life and dignity.

### **Healing the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11–19)**

Ten lepers cry out to Jesus from a distance, as the law requires. All ten are healed, yet only one returns to give thanks—and he is a Samaritan, an outsider. Jesus draws attention not to the healing itself, but to the response of gratitude and relationship. “Your faith has made you well,” He says to the one who returns. This miracle teaches us that while many receive God’s gifts, true healing includes recognition, gratitude, and a restored relationship with God.

## **ACTIVITY: “WHO WAS ON THE OUTSIDE?”**

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Divide participants into small groups of 3–5 people.
2. Ask each group to identify who was marginalized or excluded in each Gospel story.
3. Invite groups to reflect using the questions below.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Who is “on the outside” in these stories?
- How does Jesus respond to them?
- Who might be “on the outside” in our communities today?
- How does Jesus’ compassion reposition them?

### **OPTIONAL CREATIVE COMPONENT**

Invite groups to imagine a modern-day scenario in which Jesus performs a miracle today:

- Who would He approach?
- What kind of suffering would He respond to?
- What would restoration look like?

Groups may choose to write or draw their response. Afterward, invite a brief sharing with the larger group.



## GROUP DISCUSSION

Bring participants back together and invite reflections.

Use the following prompts as needed:

- What stood out to you about Jesus' compassion in these stories?
- How do gratitude and recognition deepen healing?
- What does inclusion look like in everyday Christian life?

## IN CLOSING

Remind participants that Jesus consistently moves toward those who are grieving, excluded, or forgotten. His miracles restore life, dignity, and belonging. This session prepares us to reflect next on Christ's ultimate power over death and hopelessness, and how His resurrection miracles speak into our deepest fears and losses.

## 2:15–2:45 PM - SESSION 4: The Resurrection Miracles — Christ Brings Life Where Hope Is Lost

### A NOTE TO FACILITATORS

This session engages themes of death, grief, and hope. Participants may connect these stories to personal losses or unresolved sorrow. Allow space for reverence and quiet reflection. Encourage listening more than speaking, and avoid rushing the discussion. This session is meant to point participants toward hope in Christ, not to provide answers to every question surrounding suffering or death.

### OVERVIEW

Jesus' resurrection miracles reveal His authority over death itself. These encounters show us that Christ enters moments of grief and hopelessness with compassion and power. In raising the dead, Jesus does not deny sorrow—He meets it, transforms it, and reveals that death does not have the final word.

In this session, participants will reflect on two resurrection miracles:

- The raising of Lazarus
- The raising of Jairus' daughter

These stories invite us to consider how Christ brings life, even when hope seems completely lost.

### SCRIPTURE

- **John 11:1–44** — The Raising of Lazarus
- **Mark 5:35–43** — The Raising of Jairus' Daughter

### READ & REFLECT

#### The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1–44)

When Jesus learns that Lazarus is ill, He delays going to him. By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has been dead for four days. To those mourning, it appears that Jesus has come too late. At the tomb, Jesus weeps. His tears reveal deep compassion and genuine grief. He does not stand distant from human sorrow—He enters it fully. Jesus then calls Lazarus by name and commands him to come out. This miracle reveals



Christ’s authority over death and His personal relationship with those He loves. Life is restored where all hope appeared to be gone.

### **The Raising of Jairus’ Daughter (Mark 5:35–43)**

Jairus approaches Jesus in desperation, asking Him to heal his dying daughter. Before Jesus arrives, the message comes: “Your daughter has died.” All hope seems lost. Jesus responds with simple but powerful words: “*Do not fear, only believe.*” He enters the house quietly, takes the child by the hand, and restores her to life. This miracle is intimate and gentle, reminding us that faith is still called for even when circumstances say it is too late.

### **ACTIVITY: “UNBIND HIM”**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Invite participants to pair up.
2. Ask each pair to discuss quietly the question below.
3. Emphasize listening without interruption or advice.

#### **REFLECTION PROMPT**

- What “binds” people today and prevents them from fully living?  
(Examples: fear, anxiety, grief, addiction, guilt, isolation.)

Invite participants to reflect on how Jesus’ words—“*Unbind him, and let him go*”—speak to these realities today.

Allow approximately **8–10 minutes** for paired reflection.

#### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Bring participants back together.

Use the following questions to guide the conversation:

- What stood out to you about how Jesus responds to grief in these stories?
- How do these miracles shape our understanding of hope?
- Where do we long for new life or renewal today?

Keep sharing brief and relevant.

#### **IN CLOSING**

Remind participants that Jesus does not deny death or suffering, but He enters them with compassion and power. The resurrection miracles point us to the promise that life, hope, and renewal are possible—even when the situation seems beyond repair. This session prepares us to move into reflection on how Christ’s miracles continue today and how we are called to live as witnesses of hope in the world.



## 2:45–3:00 PM — Break / Movement Activity

### Walk & Talk (5–10 minutes)

**Suggestion:** Quick energizer

Participants pair up and take a short walk (preferably outdoors) for 5–10 minutes while responding to the following prompt:

- *Which miracle challenges me the most?*
- *Which miracle encourages me the most?*

Invite participants to briefly explain their choices and discuss together as they walk.

## 3:00–3:45 PM - INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP: “MIRACLES TODAY?” — From Encounter to Mission

### A NOTE TO FACILITATORS

This workshop is the integrative heart of the retreat. Its purpose is to help participants connect the Gospel miracles they have reflected on with their lived experience today. Keep the focus on recognition, faith, and response—not debate or proof. Encourage honesty, but gently redirect if the conversation becomes argumentative or overly theoretical.

### OVERVIEW

Throughout the day, participants have encountered Jesus through His miracles of healing, compassion, authority, and resurrection. This workshop invites them to reflect on an important question: *Do miracles still happen today?* Rather than focusing on extraordinary events alone, this session helps participants recognize God’s presence, healing, and activity in everyday life—and consider how they are called to participate in Christ’s ongoing work in the world.

### PART 1: SMALL GROUP CIRCLES INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide participants into small groups of 5–7 people.
2. Ask groups to sit in a circle to encourage conversation.
3. Invite groups to discuss the questions below.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use the questions as written, allowing time for thoughtful responses:

- Do you believe miracles still happen today? Why or why not?
- How do Jesus’ miracles strengthen faith?
- In areas of life where healing does not seem to come, how can we still recognize Christ’s presence?

Encourage participants to speak from personal experience rather than abstract ideas. Allow silence when it occurs.



## **PART 2: “MODERN MIRACLES” SHARING WALL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Provide sticky notes and pens, along with a large board or wall space.
2. Invite participants to write down a brief example of God’s presence, healing, or intervention that they have personally witnessed or heard about.
3. Ask participants to place their notes on the board.

Examples may include:

- A restored relationship
- Unexpected peace during a difficult time
- Strength to endure loss or illness
- An act of compassion that brought hope

As notes are added, allow participants to step back and observe the collection.

### **REFLECTION**

Invite participants to quietly reflect:

- What do you notice as you look at these stories together?
- What does this “miracle mosaic” reveal about how God works today?

### **PART 3: CONNECTING MIRACLES TO MISSION**

Read **Matthew 25:34–36** aloud.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

Explain that Jesus calls His followers not only to witness miracles, but to participate in His work of compassion, healing, and care for others.

### **DISCUSS**

Invite a brief discussion using the following prompt:

- How can we bring Christ’s healing, compassion, and provision into our communities?

### **SUGGESTED COMMITMENTS**

Share the examples below and encourage participants to consider one simple, realistic commitment:

- Start or join a small prayer group
- Volunteer at a local shelter or soup kitchen
- Write or call someone who is struggling
- Practice daily Scripture reflection
- Offer a consistent presence to someone in need



Emphasize that faithfulness often begins with small acts done in love.

## IN CLOSING

Remind participants that miracles are not limited to the pages of Scripture. Christ continues to work through faith, compassion, and service. When we recognize His presence and respond with love, we become participants in His ongoing miracle of transformation in the world. This workshop prepares participants to move into the closing prayer and sending forth.

## 3:45–3:55 PM — Closing Prayer & Sending Forth

### A NOTE TO FACILITATORS

This closing gathers the day into a single focus: belief in Christ and life in His Name. Keep the tone calm and unhurried. This is a moment of reflection and commissioning, not extended discussion.

### CLOSING PRAYER

*(Read aloud as written)*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
We thank You for gathering us together today  
and for meeting us through Your Word,  
through one another, and through the quiet movements of our hearts.  
As we go forth, help us carry what we have received.  
When storms arise, remind us that You are near.  
When we feel weak or uncertain, teach us to trust You more deeply.  
Open our eyes to the quiet miracles of daily life,  
and shape us into people of compassion, mercy, and hope.  
May Your peace remain with us,  
and may Your love guide us in all that we do.  
For You are our Lord and our Savior,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE

Read aloud: **John 20:30–31**

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

### REFLECTION NOTE (FOR THE FACILITATOR TO READ OR PARAPHRASE)

John reminds us that Jesus performed many more signs than we can ever record. The miracles we read in Scripture are not meant to impress us, but to lead us to belief. Throughout this retreat, we have reflected on miracles of healing, compassion, authority, and resurrection. Each sign points to the same truth: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. John ends his Gospel by reminding us that faith is not about witnessing extraordinary events alone, but about trusting the One who stands at the center of them. The miracles continue when belief takes root in our lives and shapes how we live, love, and serve.



### **CLOSING HYMN (optional)**

Sing **Der Voghormya** together as a group.

### **3:55–4:00 PM — Departure**

- Post-retreat survey
- Clean-up and dismissal

