



Acts: Signs, Wonders & Miracles

Date: Sunday 25th October

Speaker: Andrew McNeil

Key Verses: Acts 3:1-14

Talk Summary:

- In Acts we see 17 times where miracles or answered prayers help people come to trust in Jesus. Some dramatic examples include whole communities coming to faith. Acts 9:35-42. "And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon turned to the Lord." We want to see more people "turn to the Lord" and "believe in the Lord Jesus."
- So, words and works go together. It's central in Jesus ministry and the early Church. It's core, not fringe and it's for everyone, not just a few.
- Moments of prayer can shift a conversation. People can experience God's presence or a specific answer to a need. These signs of the kingdom of God points to King Jesus.
- Peter and John were people of prayer. One of the most consistent features that describes the early Church is that they are praying people. We reflect that world we are most aware of and prayer helps us live aware of God.
- This man had a presenting need. Needs open people up.
- More people are praying these days so to ask - Can I pray for you right now - not as weird as you think (50% of young people have prayed in the last 6 months)
- Peter was aware of what he had. He knew he was filled with the presence of God. We can often feel fragile but the truth is we have treasure in jars of clay. (2 Cor 4:7)
- It's the prayers you do pray that can get answered. The ones you don't pray will never get answered. That's why we say faith is spelt RISK.
- "It's scary... Just do it. What is courage? It's not waiting and praying until we feel brave. It's feeling the fear and doing it anyway." Mike Pilavachi

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- How has an answered prayer helped in your own journey of faith (healing, deliverance, provision etc)?
- What is Jesus next step for you as we consider making a difference - Kingdom ministry, kingdom invitation?
 - Texting people in your phone book? Inviting a friend to Alpha or church? Getting trained to pray for others? Do you feel confident or equipped?
 - How about joining Ruth and others offering to pray for people in Birmingham? For more info contact the office at info@birmingmavineyard.com
- The Kingdom of God is both now and not yet. Discuss as a group what are the things that help you lean into the now of the Kingdom of God?
- What struck you from the stories on Sunday (Ruth's or Charlie's)?
- Ponder and discuss this statement "It's abnormal for a Christian not to have an appetite for the impossible. It has been written into a spiritual DNA to hunger for the impossibilities around us to bow at the name of Jesus." Bill Johnson.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus.

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?

Note to Small Group Leaders: Please note that if you'd like to review the sermon, or have a hard time following the video, you can use subtitles on YouTube. On the YouTube video, click the "closed captioning" button (bottom left of YouTube video screen, first button). Google "how to show subtitles on YouTube videos" if you need help with this.