

## **Leader Guide**

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**Album Title:** *Be One*

Curb Records

**Song:** Be One

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## **Theme**

Evangelism (God's Representatives)

## **Objective**

The objective of this Bible Study is to lead your students to a greater understanding of what it means to be a Christ Follower. We tend to look for miracles to happen in some of the most unlikely places, but we ignore many miracles that are right in front of us. The greatest miracle of all is a changed life. God brought us from darkness to light. Once we give our lives to Christ we have been given new life and a new mission. We are an extension of His saving grace. We must be willing to step outside of our comfort zone, and “dwell” with those who need to experience the incarnate. This Bible Study will open the door for your students to embrace a Missional Life and be a miracle in their home, their school, their community, and their world.

## **Warm Up**

As students arrive, give each of them 3 note cards. Have them write down a miracle that Jesus performed on each card. After they have completed the cards, collect them and break them in 2 different teams. Students will then play the game “Miracle Pictionary”. Each team will select a person to draw. You will randomly pick a note card and show that to the designated drawer. Each team will have 2 minutes to guess which miracle is being drawn. For each right answer, the team will get a point. If the team gets the answer wrong the other team gets a chance to steal that point. Take about 10 minutes to play this game.

## **Transition**

Webster's Dictionary defines a miracle as an unusual or wonderful event that is believed to be caused by the power of God. Miracles are a way for God to reveal himself to us. Jesus performed miracles during his ministry. I believe we have a muddled view of miracles. Many people are confused about God and the way he performs miracles. What makes miracles so special? Have students work in groups to answer the following questions. Give them 5-10 minutes to work on these questions and then have the groups share their answers with the entire Youth Group.

**What is a miracle?**

**What makes something a miracle?**

**Have you ever witnessed a miracle?**

## **The Video**

Natalie Grant's *Be One*

## **Transition**

You may need to build another bridge between the song and the Bible study section. This will likely involve asking some open-ended questions about what the group just saw, or going back over the lyrics and generating some feedback.

## **Bible Study**

In February 2011, I shifted my ministry focus to consist of writing, speaking, and training students, parents, and church leaders. In making that transition, I took a job in Law Enforcement at a local County Jail to provide an income stream to fund this type of ministry. It has been an eye opening experience. As a result, I have come to realize that ministry can take place anywhere God has planted a believer. I have had some real God moments as I have had the opportunity to minister to people who have had their freedom taken from them. One encounter in particular really shed some light on one of the great Missional verses in the Bible.

### **Read Matthew 25:34-40**

Every week I saw inmates that have been incarcerated and seem to be cut off from society. Some get visitors every week, but some have been here for almost a year and have never had anyone visit them. These visits have a direct connection to the mood and disposition of the inmate. Those who have visits look forward to them with great anticipation. Some have even lost their visits on occasion for disciplinary reasons. In those cases, the inmates are devastated. The need for human contact is one of the most basic needs we have as a people. Jesus knew this all too well. He wanted the people who heard this parable to understand that the most basic of human responses, let alone Christian responses, is that we meet this very basic need of human contact. Jesus was telling his disciples that meeting the needs of these so called “least” in society would be the basis or “mission” of the church that would soon carry after him. This type of “Missional” focus of meeting the needs of people as if we were meeting the needs of Jesus himself would be the very force that would propel the early church to a world changing force.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus shared a Parable in which he outlined the mission of those that would follow him. Jesus stated in Matthew 25:34-40, “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’ As I studied these verses in the past, I always thought that it was strange that Jesus included visiting someone in prison in this list of things that believers should be engaged in. I never really understood this part of that verse until now.

We were created for relationships. God created mankind with a need to connect through relationships. All throughout Scripture we see this concept of God imparting wisdom and truth through the context of relationships. The Bible is a relational book. It chronicles man’s relationship with God, man’s relationship with man, and man’s relationship with the world. We are “hard-wired” to connect relationally. That is why these verses are so profound. In this parable, Jesus tells the story of the “least of these” that have been forgotten relationally. The stranger longing for a home, the naked longing to be clothed, the sick longing to be cared for, and the prisoner longing for human contact.

**In your world, who are the least of these?**

**What are some basic needs of your friends and family?**

**Why does Jesus say, “I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!”**

## Read Acts 2:12-17

The promised Holy Spirit descended on this band of 120 men and women who were in agreement in heart and mind. In that empowered moment, everything suddenly became clear to them. In a flash they realized that the real mission of Jesus was not to establish a government, but to transform the hearts and minds of people. It was not to solve society's problems from the top down, but from the bottom up, just as he did when he was among them. He healed, he ministered, he fed, he taught, and he loved individual people with real needs. And these people loved him in return. They had seen his transforming mission in action, but they had been too self-centered and self-absorbed in their own personal kingdom building to recognize it. But the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit changed all that.

On the day of Pentecost their confusion turned to conviction. They burst from the room and began explaining the message and meaning of Jesus in the languages of the foreigners visiting Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. A crowd of thousands gathered in amazement, asking, "What can this mean?" (Acts 2:12, NLT).

Can't you just see Peter, the most vocal of the bunch, standing boldly before the crowd? Only weeks before he had been the opposite of bold—afraid even to identify himself with Jesus when the Romans arrested his master. But on this day he spoke with an enlightened heart and mind, in the power of God's Spirit, unashamedly proclaiming: "What you see this morning was predicted centuries ago by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people'" (Acts 2:16-17, NLT).

For ten days Peter and the other followers of Jesus had been bathed in prayer. Now Peter went on to preach a convicting sermon about a new kingdom—a transformational Kingdom movement of God ushered in by prayer and the Holy Spirit. And some three thousand people were baptized into what became known as the Body of Christ—his church. In striking contrast to the religious leaders and people of that day, these fresh new believers didn't just assemble behind closed doors and keep their religion to themselves. They lived out their newfound relationship with Christ through the power of God's Spirit. Rather than talking about Jesus, they acted like him. Rather than being religious in a Temple, they were relevant to their society. It is recorded that "a deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. They worshipped together in the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the good will of the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved" (Acts 2:43-47, NLT).

**Why is it important for you to live out of faith?**

**What role does the Holy Spirit play in the way you live your life?**

**Pentecost was very confusing for those who were there. Living for Christ can be confusing to a world that does not know him. What makes living out our faith so confusing to those we interact with?**

## Read James 1:27

This transformational Kingdom movement swept throughout Jerusalem and turned the current religion of that day on its ear. These bands of Christ followers proclaimed that "pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means we must care for the orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us" (James 1:27, NLT). That was in striking contrast to what the Jewish religious leaders had taught. And rather than erecting buildings and creating an institution of this new religion, these Christ followers gathered in homes where they prayed in agreement and in the power of the Holy Spirit engaged their community, the surrounding countryside, and the known world with a compassion for those in need like that of their Lord and Savior himself. Their lives so reflected Christ that they were known as Christ-ians. Engaging the community around

them with a lived-out gospel in the power of God actually transformed people's lives and house churches were a natural consequence. And this transformational movement of Jesus swept the world like wildfire. I believe that this can happen today if we are truly seeking to help the lost world around us experience this type of transformation. I believe the best way to do that is through the model of the early church found in Acts.

**Why did God highlight the care of orphans and widows as “pure and lasting ministry”?**

**How can you be a miracle?**

**So how are you being a miracle in your community, school, home, or church?**

## **Wrap Up**

Read the “**Parable of The Life Saving Station**” found in the Student Guide. Take some time to discuss it.

**How does the Life Changing Station apply to your life?**

**How does the Life Changing Station apply to your church?**

**What is your primary mission as a Christ Follower?**

**How can God use your life to be a miracle for someone else?**

Give the students a few minutes to answer the questions in the Student Guide. These questions are to be for the students only and not to be shared with the group. This survey will help students see how their own Spiritual Growth and relationship with Christ not only effects them but it can be a “miracle” for those God's allows our lives to intersects with. Hopefully students will begin to view their life and mission differently. They will not just be looking for miracles, but instead they will ***Be One***.