

Discussion Guide

August 10, 2025

Miracle Season Week 2

The Blessing and the Pressing

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Main Idea

Miracles often emerge in the midst of our discomfort and pressing seasons. When life presses us, it's not to defeat us but to push us closer to Jesus and His miraculous power. Faith grows in these moments, and breakthrough comes when we let go of what needs to die and step into the freedom Christ provides..

Anchor Passage

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."
(Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV))

Read John 11:1-6, 17, 20-28, 32-44

1. Miracles Break Out in the Midst of Discomfort

God's miracles don't happen in perfect, comfortable conditions. Instead, they spring from brokenness—those places where we feel squeezed, pressed, or even shattered. Like an orange must be pressed before the juice flows, God uses our trials to produce something sweet and life-giving in us.

Read James 1:2-4

Discussion: What discomfort or trial have you faced that revealed God's miraculous power in your life? How does understanding that God uses brokenness change your perspective on your current struggles?

MIRACLES spring forth out of broken places.

2. The Pressing Should Push You Toward Jesus

Our natural tendency is to pull away from pressure, but God's design is often the opposite: pressing moments are invitations to run toward Him, not away. Martha and Mary experienced the miracle only when they moved toward Jesus, even though their circumstances seemed hopeless.

Read Exodus 2 Peter 3:9 and 2 Corinthians 4:8

Discussion: When faced with pressure or delay, how do you stay focused on Jesus? Who helps you keep your eyes on God during tough seasons?

3. It's Hard to Move Into a Miracle If You're Still Wrapped Up in What Needed to Die

Freedom is a key part of experiencing miracles. Lazarus came out of the tomb still bound in graveclothes. Jesus told the people to "loose him, and let him go." This reminds us that after God performs a miracle, we have a responsibility to release what holds us back—whether it's fear, unforgiveness, or old patterns.

Read Galatians 5:1 and Mark 11:23

Discussion: What "graveclothes" or old burdens do you need to let go of? How can you speak life and authority over these areas?

SPEAK UP with authority for what NEEDS to LIVE IN our lives

SUMMARY

Life's pressing moments are not dead ends; they are doorways to miracles. God uses brokenness to build faith and character, presses us toward His presence, and calls us into freedom from what no longer serves us. The miracle season comes when we stop clinging to what has passed and move confidently in the new life Christ offers. Remember, the miracle isn't just what God does—it's who He is, faithful and always working for our good.

CALL TO ACTION

Reflect on where God is pressing you today and ask Him to reveal the miracle in your current season.

Make a daily decision to move toward Jesus, especially when life feels hardest.

Identify any old burdens or mindsets holding you back, and ask God to help you let them go.

Practice speaking faith-filled declarations over your life and circumstances with boldness.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Pressure Cooker Discussion

Materials Needed: A pressure cooker or a clear, sealable container with a tight lid (can be shown as a picture or video if physical item unavailable).

Description:

Use the pressure cooker as a metaphor for how pressure works. Explain that just like a pressure cooker uses heat and steam pressure to transform food, God uses the pressures and pressing seasons in our lives to bring about transformation and miracles.

Instructions:

- Show the pressure cooker or image and briefly explain how it works.
- Ask the group: *What kind of pressure or pressing are you currently experiencing? How do you think God might be using that pressure to transform you?*
- Facilitate a conversation about trusting God in hard times and recognizing His refining work.
- Encourage members to share testimonies or examples of how past pressures led to growth or breakthrough.

Optional:

Close with a prayer asking God to help everyone embrace their pressing season with faith and expectancy for miracles.