



Seven Signs

The Meaning Behind The
Miracles

Week #2: Priority & Provision



Contents

How To Lead Your YCI Club



Play

Play a game together.



Pray

Spend time praising and thanking God in prayer.



Grow

Learn from Scripture about who God says He is and how we should respond to Him.



Go

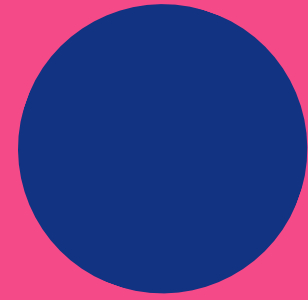
Look for opportunities to share the Gospel, and serve others in your community with your YCI club members.





NINJA!

First, the YCI club should stand up and form one large circle. Next, one person should be chosen as the "Ninja Master". The Ninja Master will proceed to count down from three (3, 2, 1, Go!), and this is the cue for everyone to get in their best "ninja pose". One at a time and starting with the Ninja Master, each person will try to (gently!) hit the hand of the person standing to their right or left with one swift move. Once they make their "move" to hit the person's hand, they must hold that position until it is their turn again (it is only your turn after someone "moves" to hit *your* hand). The direction of the circle can change at any moment depending on if someone chooses to go for the hand of the person on their right or their left. If your hand is hit, you are out of the game. The last person standing is the winner!



Ask God For His Will To Be Done In These Areas:



CLUB TIME

Pray that God will speak to everyone in the room through His Word.



GROUP NEEDS

Take time to discuss and pray over the personal needs and requests of those in attendance.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Ask God to move in situations that are unique to your school and community.

What Is A Sign?

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John record the life and ministry of Jesus. Each book contains incredible accounts of miracles performed through Him, but the Gospel of John does so in a way that is particularly unique.

As outlined in *"The Source: Trusting The Great I Am For Everything I Need"* (YCI Curriculum), Jesus makes seven "I Am" statements in the Gospel of John. Each of these declarations point to a distinct aspect of His character. Continuing with the theme of "seven", the Gospel of John also records seven miracles that are designed to answer three questions:

- 1) What distinguishes Jesus as God?**
- 2) Why did Jesus come to earth?**
- 3) How does Jesus meet needs today?**

The seven signs culminate in a miracle that radically altered the course of human history (Jesus' resurrection). Each week, the goal of the "grow" portion of this curriculum is to analyze each sign through the lens of the three questions outlined above. Prayerfully, in doing so, we will experience deeper love, gratitude and faith in the person of Jesus Christ.



The Sign Of Priority

John 5:1-11 (ESV)

"**1** After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **2** Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. **3** In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; **4** for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred the water: whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. **5** One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" **7** The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." **8** Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." **9** And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. **10** So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed." **11** But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'"



The Sign Of Provision

John 6:1-14 (ESV)

1 After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. **2** And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. **3** Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. **5** Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. **7** Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." **8** One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, **9** "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" **10** Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. **11** Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." **13** So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. **14** When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, 'This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!'"



The Meaning Of The Miracles

1) What distinguishes Jesus as God?

Sign Of Priority: The author of Hebrews describes Jesus as "superior to angels" (Heb. 1:4), and He demonstrates this priority by healing the man without an angel having to "stir the water" (Jn. 5:4). Even though the sick man could not "win the race" to the pool, Jesus (who would win the race on our behalf) prioritized him when he could not help himself.

Sign Of Provision: The math of this miracle does not add up. Five loaves and two fish should not be able to feed thousands of people. Jesus is demonstrating that God *always* provides for those who listen and obey His words.

2) Why did Jesus come to earth?

Sign Of Priority: Just like the man by the pool of Bethesda, we are unable to fight and earn our way to freedom. In a radical act of grace and selflessness, God prioritized broken humanity by humbling Himself to the point of death.

Sign Of Provision: By distributing bread and fish through His disciples, Jesus is demonstrating His intention for today's church. He has called *us* to distribute His ultimate provision (the Gospel) to the world.

3) How does Jesus meet needs today?

Sign Of Priority: God wants our *surrender* far more than He wants our *strength*. By simply trusting Jesus and admitting that he needed help, the man received healing.

Sign Of Provision: In God's hands, the little we have is actually a lot. When we have a need, we should thank God for what He has given and trust that He will fill in the gaps.



Let's Talk About This

(Small Group Questions If Time Allows)

1) What is one thing that "jumped out" to you while reading about these miracles? What did you learn about the heart and character of Jesus?

2) What is an area of need you are facing right now? How do the "signs" we learned about today give you hope in the midst of the obstacles you are facing?

3) What are some creative things we can do to bring more unsaved people to our weekly YCI club meetings?



Consider This Before You Leave:



Big Idea

The seven signs in the Gospel of John answer questions about Jesus' identity as God, His purpose in coming to earth and how He meets needs today. The signs of *priority* and *provision* reveal that Jesus favors the broken, and He miraculously provides through the hands of His people.



Sharing Truth

Who is someone in your life that needs to hear about what we discussed today? Pray for them, and find time this week to encourage them.



Meeting Needs

What is something your YCI club can do to show God's love this semester?

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