



## Group Discussion and Application

- Discuss these definitions of 'miracle':
  - "a visible deed done by God in a manner other than, and contrary to His usual way of acting, commonly called natural law"—R.C. Sproul, John Gerstner, Arthur Lindsley, *Classical Apologetics* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 144.
  - "Above the established order...the laws of nature are not violated but superseded...not annihilated or suspended, but are only counteracted"—Louis Berkhof *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1941), 176f.

How do these definitions differ from the way the word *miracle* is commonly used today?
- List some of the miracles recorded in Scripture.
- What were some of the responses of people in Scripture to miracles? What lessons are we to learn from this variety of responses?
- Miracles served as signs/pointers and communicated truth. What messages are communicated by the miracles listed above (#2)?
- Read Matthew 12:38 and Mk 6:5-6. Why do you think Jesus refused to do signs for the unbelieving on these occasions?
- Discuss the following quotes:
  - "Miraculous signs do not cause faith, nor are they even necessary for faith (Jn 20:29). While God may employ signs as instruments to prepare and draw men unto Himself, in the end it is only God that produces faith."
  - "miracles serve not only as an instrument for drawing men to Christ, but also to bring indictment against those who refuse to believe."—Gregory K. Holladay, *The Significance of Signs: A Study of the usage of "σημείον" in the New Testament* (Unpublished paper, 1990), 5,9.
- Why is it important to understand that signs do not cause faith? What are the applications and implications of this to us?



## Personal Reflection and Response

- What application from today's study do you see for your own life?
- Conduct your own research/study on the subject of miraculous signs.
  - Define "miracle" and "sign".
  - Read thru one of the gospels. As you read, keep a list of the miraculous signs performed, the audience in attendance, the result of the miracle; the response of those watching; the message communicated.
  - Draw some conclusions and extract some lessons from your study.



## Family Homework

- Think about some of the signs you have seen this week (e.g. Stop signs). Why are these signs important? What message does each of these signs send?
- Discuss some of the signs and wonders Jesus performed in the New Testament. How did people respond? What did each miraculous sign point to and teach?



# What to Make of the Snake

Exodus 7:8-13

What was the significance of the miracle of the staff turned snake— a staff that swallowed the Egyptian staffs? **The miracle of the snake was...**

- An \_\_\_\_\_ of the plagues
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of Moses' & Aaron's commission
- An \_\_\_\_\_ of the true conflict
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of God's sovereign authority
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of Pharaoh's unbelief
- & Some application for today

