

WEEK 1: MIRACLE OF DELIVERANCE

We spend a lot of our year traveling on the weekends to volleyball tournaments to support our oldest. Within this world of travel volleyball there are certain idiosyncrasies that define the travel volleyball world and that you'd only be familiar with if you have experienced it yourself...getting "pinned" as teenagers walk by each other clipping colored clothespins into ponytails, hoods, and bags. Waiting until 11:00 PM to see if you are swinging the afternoon wave and will be at the tournament until midnight or the morning wave and must be up at 5:00 AM. Bringing extra cash to the tournament for acai bowls or whatever other "snacks" your ravenous pre teen is hungry for that day.

Or praying and hoping you time it just right to actually get a parking space near the entrance and not located in the back two or praying and hoping you time it just right to actually get a parking space near the entrance and not be stuck in the back two lots a mile away.

We've joked more than once, "If I find a spot, it's a miracle!"

For so many of us today, miracles still only look like the Red Sea parting, or fire falling from heaven. We read about miracles in Scripture and assume they belong to a "**closed canon era**"—something reserved for Bible times, not modern life.

Others swing the opposite way, calling every small good fortune a miracle: a sale at Target, the perfect avocado, or yes, the elusive front-row parking spot.

Wherever you land on the spectrum, here's the real beauty of miracles: they always point back to the nature and character of God.

Whether it's something small and sweet that reminds you God sees you (like that parking spot), or something profound and life-altering (like chains breaking in a prison cell), miracles invite us to remember: **God is present. God is powerful. God is personal.**

This week as we explore deliverance miracles—the big chain-breaking moments—I want you to also pay attention to the ways God might be working quietly around you, too. Both shout and whisper remind us: He is still the God of miracle and He still works miracles today.

Day 1: The Sound That Shakes Chains

Read: Acts 16:16–26

Primary Verse: *"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God..."* (v. 25)

Reflection:

After being beaten, thrown in jail, and put in stocks, we see Paul and Silas worshipping in prison? Just picture this - picture this scene. Two men, we can assume, bloody and beaten, standing in the most uncomfortable positions, bursting into song in a dirty dank prison.

That's not normal. That's not even strategic. But their worship wasn't about strategy—it was about surrender. They weren't praising for *deliverance*; they were praising because they already trusted the Deliverer.

Imagine having that faith. Imagine having that amount of trust in God. That in the middle of your WORST circumstances, your response is to sing a song of praises.

We often want the miracle first—*then* we'll praise. But what if the shaking doesn't come *until* the sound of your praise breaks through the silence of your fear? What if your expectation of who God is and what He is capable of actually ushers in God's miracles.

What if - instead of praying for deliverance - your mind was instead filled with everything God has already done.

Journal Prompt:

Where am I waiting for God to move before I start worshipping? Can I choose worship in the middle of what feels like a prison?

Day 2: The Chains Aren't Just Yours

Read: Acts 16:26–30

Focus Verse: *"All the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose."* (v. 26)

Reflection:

Paul and Silas' praise didn't just set them free—it set *everyone* free. Even the jailer, the very one who had locked them up, was forever changed by their deliverance.

Here's the truth: **you never suffer alone, and you rarely heal alone.** Your breakthrough today might be the very lifeline someone else needs tomorrow to believe in the goodness of God.

Sometimes your miracle isn't just for you—it's for the crowd watching from the sidelines. Your quiet trust, your steady faith, your ability to smile or even sing in the middle of the storm may be what causes someone to stop, stare, and wonder:

"What kind of God gives peace like that?"

Journal Prompt:

Who in my life might be watching how I respond to my suffering? What would it look like to invite others into my freedom story?

Day 3: Don't Just Leave the Prison—Leave Transformed

Read: Acts 16:31–34, John 8:36

Focus Verse: *“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”* (v. 31)

Reflection:

Paul and Silas *could* have run when the doors opened—but they stayed. Why? Because real freedom isn't about running—it's about transformation. The jailer didn't just let them go; he *joined them*.

Deliverance isn't always walking out of your situation. Sometimes, it's staying—and being changed in the middle of it. You can be free *before* you're out. Freedom starts in the heart long before it shows up in your circumstances. It's possible to walk free in chains, and be chained even after you've walked free.

Here's the tension: Am I chasing escape—or true, lasting freedom? Am I waiting for God to change my situation... or letting Him change *me* in this situation? Am I asking Him to change others rather than change me?

Journal Prompt:

Am I chasing escape or actual freedom? What would it look like to be spiritually free even if my situation doesn't change?

Day 4: From Captive to Called

Read: Luke 4:18, Galatians 5:1, Exodus 14 (Israel delivered through Red Sea)

Focus Verse: *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free...”* (Gal. 5:1)

Reflection:

God has always been in the business of deliverance—from Egypt, from demons, from shame, from legalism. Jesus says it plainly: He came to “set the oppressed free.” And now He invites *you* to walk in that calling too.

The miracle of deliverance is also a mission: freed people *free people*. Don't just receive the miracle—live it, walk in it, pass it on. This is where testifying and talking about what God has done, the million little miracles that you've witnessed in your life lead you to your next calling - to invite others into what God has for them.

Journal Prompt:

Where have I been delivered that I could now help someone else find freedom? What story could I begin to share?