

## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus entered Galilee after traveling through Samaria. The Galileans had seen Jesus in Jerusalem at the Passover feast, and they welcomed Him. Jesus went to the town of Cana, where He had performed His first miracle—turning water into wine. News spread of Jesus' whereabouts, and an official hurried to find Him.

The official's son was sick in Capernaum, about 20 miles away. The boy was so sick, the official knew he would die if he didn't get help. So the official went to Jesus. Imagine the urgency in his voice when he pleaded for Jesus to come heal his son.

But Jesus didn't rush away to Capernaum. Instead, He challenged the official and the Galileans: "You people must see miracles and signs before you believe in Me."

It was true; many people who saw Jesus' miracles followed Him and believed in Him. (See John 2:11,23; 3:2; 6:2,14; 12:11,18.) Jesus was willing to help people, but He didn't want them to miss the point. The miracles were great, but Jesus had come to offer something greater. The miracles were signs that pointed to who Jesus is: the Son of God who offers eternal life.

The official pleaded again, "Sir, come down before my boy dies!" Jesus answered, "Go. Your son will live." The official believed what Jesus said. He headed home, and his servants confirmed the truth: His son was well. The fever had left him at the same time Jesus said, "Your son will live." So the official and everyone in his household believed in Jesus.

Jesus' miracles are one of the main ways God brought people to faith in Him. Jesus demonstrated His power and authority when He healed the sick and set captives free. Jesus performed more miracles than the apostle John recorded. John concludes his Gospel by explaining that "these are written so that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

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