

LIFE Meeting

Miracles

December 2, 2014

1. Icebreaker: Snowball fight
Vince

2. Opening Prayer
Charlie/Sarah

3. Large Group: Story/Reflection
Sarah

4. Witness Talk
Mrs. McCoy

5. Large Group: Video/Questions/Reflection
Gabby/Vince

6. Small Group: Snowflake Activity

7. Large Group: Thoughts

8. Closing Prayer
Gabby

- Next Meeting: January 7th
- Bring Pictures for bulletin board
- LIFE Shirt Order Forms are Due Tomorrow
- Christmas with the Cougars This Sunday
- Planning Meeting December 11th

Icebreaker

Snowball Fight

Give everyone a piece of paper and have them write down:

1. A favorite thing about Gross
2. A favorite family Christmas Tradition
3. Why you came or keep coming to LIFE
4. An interesting, little known fact about yourself

After this is complete, students are told to crumple up their pages. Students are given 30 seconds to have a "snowball fight" with the crumpled up pieces of paper.

Upon completion of the snowball fight, each student is to pick up one of the random "snowballs" off the classroom floor. We will then form a circle around the room and one at a time the person will read what is on their sheet of paper and the group will try and figure out who it is.

Opening Prayer

Our Prayer today is a little different we are going to watch a video, then listen to Carlie for a bit then we will close with a prayer. Please be respectful and keep a prayerful attitude during this time.

Charlie's Video...first 4 minutes

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Charlie Peters. Am a junior and I am involved in sports and other activities. I have an amazing family off 11 and I am known as the miracle child. In the year 3002 I was diagnosed with Burkitt's Cell Lymphoma, I was 5 years old, and my parents were just getting back to normal after my sister's battle with cancer. She is a survivor of Rabdomicar Sarcoma and she is deaf in her left ear. She had a tough battle but that was just a warmup for my parents compared to my situation.

One warm day on April 29, 2003 I came inside and laid down. My mom asked what was wrong and I said my tummy hurts and she looked at it and I was a pretty chunky 5year old, but it was gibber then usual and my mom called up the doctor and he said to bring me in right now, so we drove out to Children's Physicians and got a cat scan...and guess what, it wasn't good. He took my mom into the scan room and showed her my stomach and she compared the tumor to a kid's basketball. So she came back into the room and called my dad crying and I didn't know what cancer was and I was too busy munching on a sucker anyway. My dad was in Connecticut for work and he hopped on the next flight back to Omaha. , and I was taken by

ambulance to Children's Hospital. When I got there, there was a giant bear waiting for me with about 30 pounds of candy.

My mom is crying, my family is showing up to say hi, and I am just pumped saying, "look at all of this candy" even though I wasn't allowed to eat it until after my next Cat Scan. So I went in for the scan and it didn't come out well. My tumor was growing and my chance of survival was at about 19%--not good. And I went in for my first of many lifesaving surgeries. It was a tough one but successful.

About 2- 2½ weeks go by, my tumor is small and they plan on removing the whole thing the next day. The next morning I go in and the scanner picks up an infection so surgery is stopped and back to the Cat Scan room and they find traces of some long name fungal infection in my left shin, right knee and the main spot right on my tumor. So little Charlie has 19% change of survival and now an infection that 1 in every 40 people survive. My parents were told to let me go, but they said no way we have God on our side and we can win this battle. And boom look at me I am still alive!

Reflection:

Miracles are all about perspective and the way you look at them. Some miracles are obvious, while other ones are not. With God's help however, we can learn to recognize all of the miracles in our lives, big and small. Charlie's story is one of an amazing miracle. Through the grace of God, he and his family stayed strong, and he defeated his cancer. Tonight we are going to explore both big miracles like this, and the miracles we can find in everyday life. A quote from Tim Hansel says, "Life becomes precious and more special to us when we look for the little everyday miracles and get excited about the privileges of simply being human."

Dear Lord, please help us keep an open mind and heart to recognize all of the miracles in our lives, big and small. In your name we pray, May the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen

Large Group

Miracles Among Us

transition leading into story

- Any St. Columbkille kids might remember this story
- I've never forgotten it ever since my 1st grade teacher, Mrs. English, told it to us
 - Anyone might know Brigid English, who is a senior at Papio South, or Peggy English who is a junior at Mercy
- Her husband was working as a cement truck driver one day, and hit a young kid who ran out in front of his truck at 144th and Harrison
- The young boy was knocked unconscious, and was in a coma
- Paramedics were rushed to the scene, and the boy was rushed to the hospital
- He woke up 2 weeks later and his parents explained to him that he had been hit by a 32 ton cement truck
- The road to recovery would be a long one, and after 26 surgeries he would be able to walk again.
- It was a several-year process to walk without crutches and he was in a wheelchair for years
- Now, it is a miracle in itself that this young boy survived, and even eventually learned to walk again.
- But, an even bigger miracle occurred that day
- Mr. English, who drove the cement truck, rushed out after the accident and prayed over the child with his Medal of the Immaculate Conception, or Miraculous Medal
- Some of you may know this, but these medals are known to provide blessings to whoever wears them
- Anyway, Mr. English prayed over the boy with his medal.
- When he woke up from the coma, they asked the boy what he remembered from the accident
- All he could remember was a woman holding him after the accident, and comforting him
- The thing is, there were no female paramedics at the scene. All of them were male.
- Back in 1st grade I was absolutely amazed to find out that he saw a vision of Mary. And what an amazing miracle that was!
- Now, this doesn't really go with the whole miracle aspect but it is just a fun little part of the story
- I don't remember how I found this out, but years later I discovered that the boy who was hit was Adam Devine, who plays Bumper from Pitch Perfect and is one of the guys from Workaholics
- It turns out that he ended up getting more into drama, acting, and entertainment because he couldn't play sports anymore, and credits the accident to helping him really find himself

Reflection

- I know some of you might agree with me when I say it seems like big, amazing miracles never seem to happen around us. They seem to have happened in the past or nowhere near Nebraska.
- But, you just need to look around to find amazing miracles that go on every day

- Tonight we are going to look at all kinds of miracles, and I really challenge you guys to think about some miracles you've experienced in your lives, whether they be big or small
- Maybe you have experienced an amazing miracle like this one, or heard about one like I have
- Or, if you can't think of one I want you to find some everyday miracles in your life
- *transition into Mrs. McCoy's talk*

Witness Talk

Mrs. McCoy

Large Group Questions:

1. Do you believe in miracles? Why?
2. What do you believe makes a miracle classified as a miracle?
3. Who do you think can perform miracles?
4. What makes a miracle "small" or "large?"
5. Why do you think God performs miracles?
6. Do you think miracles can happen to anyone? Why?

Bruce Almighty Clip

movieclips.com/VGhX-bruce-almighty-movie-be-the-miracle/

Reflection before small groups

- Think about all the miracles in your life. Not only the big ones but the small every day miracles one that we don't even realize are miracles. Think about it, you are living, that's a miracle, the food you have every day, that's a miracle, even a smile you give someone, it may not seem like much to you but it could brighten their day.
- Lord help us to see the miracles that are in our everyday lives. Help us to see you in these miracle and help others to see them too. As your people let us joyfully proclaim, may the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

Please Write Legibly 😊

5. Favorite thing about Gross:

6. Favorite family Christmas Tradition:

7. Why you came or keep coming to LIFE:

8. An interesting, little known fact about yourself:

Small Group

Scripture

Please come together and hold hands. We have our fingers intertwined so that our weaknesses cover our strengths.

Psalm 77: 13-21

Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? [14](#) You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. [15](#) With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. [16](#) The waters saw you, God,

the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed. [17](#) The clouds poured down water, the heavens resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth.

[18](#) Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked. [19](#) Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. [20](#) You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Reflection

The Lord presents us with miracles of all shapes and sizes. From multiplying fish and healing the lepers, to the simple sunrise and first words of a child. Sometimes we do not realize that our God is able to help us through anything. Let us always remember that God is forever leading us to our eternal place with him and that he will give us the miracles we need along the way. May we never be ungrateful for the little miracles and may we seek to find all the miracles that God has to offer us.

Questions:

1. Why or why not, do you believe in miracles?
2. Does anyone have an example of a "big" miracle like the miracle video?
3. Does anyone have an example of a "little miracle"?
4. Why is it sometimes hard to find the miracles in your life?
5. Do you think that God tries to hid miracles from us, or do you feel that we are just getting used to the miracles he provides us?
6. Do you believe everyone get equal amounts of miracles? Why do they or why not?
7. Do you believe that God makes us all miracles, or does he just give us the opportunity to be a miracle but we do not have to take the opportunity?
8. Who may be considered a miracle in your life and why?
9. How do you think that you can be a miracle for yourself and others?

Snowflake Activity

- Need Paper, Scissors, and Pens

- God created us all in his image in likeness. We are all different and have different interests but we still have things in common. Snowflakes look the same as they are falling from the sky but not one snowflake looks exactly like the other. As humans we have things that make us different from everyone else. If you look at a snowflake closely you can see the differences between one snowflake and another. If you get to know someone on a deeper level you start to learn things about them that don't appear on the outside. Miracles happen all the time no matter how big or how small, we are all miracles. Psalm 139 states, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."
- Everyone get piece of paper and create a snowflake. Then on the back of the snowflake write what we see about ourselves that makes us miracle.
- When everyone is done, have the small group share what they put on their snowflake.

Spontaneous Closing Prayer

Large Group

- Share any insights or wisdom that you got from your small groups
- Share why other people are miracles in your life

Closing Prayer

The Christmas Shoes

By NewSong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=An8GRQJ9cdc>

It was almost Christmas time
And there I stood in another line
Trying to buy that last gift or two
Not really in the Christmas mood
And standing right in front of me was a
Little boy waiting anxiously
Pacing around like little boys do
And in his hands he held
A pair of shoes

And His clothes were worn and old
He was dirty from head to toe
And when it came his time to pay
I couldn't believe what I heard him say

Chorus:

Sir I wanna buy these shoes
For my mama. please
It's Christmas eve and these shoes are just her
size
Could you hurry sir
Daddy says there's not much time
You see,
She's been sick for quite a while And I
know these shoes will make her smile And I
Want her to look beautiful
If mama meets Jesus tonight

They counted penny's for what seemed like
years then the

Cashier said, "Son, there's not enough here."
He searched his pockets frantically
Then he turned and he looked at me and he
said
"Mama made Christmas good at our house
though
Most years she just did without, Tell me sir,
What am I gonna do?
Some how I gotta buy her these Christmas
shoes."

So I laid the money down
I just had to help him out
And I'll never forget the look on his face when
he said,
"Mama's gonna look so great."

Chorus:

I knew I'd caught a glimpse of heaven's love as
he thanked me and ran out
I knew that God had sent me that little boy to
remind me what Christmas is all about

Chorus:

I Want her to look beautiful
If mama meets Jesus tonight

So many miracles occur in our everyday life that we don't even realize. In this song it was a miracle that the little boy got to buy his mother a pair of shoes before she died; without the help of the man, he would have never gotten them. That small deed in itself, the man giving the little boy money, is a miracle. Though small and might seem minor, God sent that man to be there at that time to help the little boy. Miracles come in so many forms, shapes, and sizes; whether it might be a loved one recovering from a life threatening illness or us being able to wake up every day healthy and able to go about our day normal. God has many ways he shines his goodness and power upon us and by taking a couple minutes or even seconds out of your day to thank him for all he has given to us will not only strengthen your relationship with him, but strengthen you as a person and maybe help you to realize all the miracles that you encounter in your life.

Lord, help us to see your great deeds you do for us whether they are on a small or large scale. Help guide us to see your goodness in all you do and to be thankful for what we do not even realize you do for us. Help us to want to help others like the man helped the little boy, whether it may be a small or large deed, help us to come to the realization it could make a huge difference in one's life and how we could partake in one of your miracles. Amen.