

## Week One – November 29, 2021 SMALL GROUP REFLECTION



*A miracle is when God intervenes and breaks through into history in a dramatic and unusual way, in a way that defies the usual rules of nature.*

*A miracle appeals to our senses to remind us that God is indeed with us. The first Christmas, the incarnation, was a miracle. God became flesh through Mary's ascent to become the mother of God. The people of Advent and the Christmas story, the people who expect miracles and are on the lookout for God experience miracles and experience the joy of the incarnation. The people who are not looking for God's activity miss out on it. Week One for Advent – Hope & Miracles.*

### **SCRIPTURE: Jer 33:14-16 • 1 Thess 3:12--4:2 • Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

Luke is about the trials and tribulations that will come at the end of time. Jesus tells us not to be overwhelmed by trouble but to stand firm and be vigilant for his coming – and to look for the signs. Miracles often come out of times of trial. It is when life seems dark that we can most recognize God's action in the world. Reflect upon the trials of life as opportunities to experience a miracle.

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word "miracle"?
2. Do you believe miracles in which God superseded nature ever happened? Why or why not?
3. Do you believe miracles still happen today?
4. Mark Batterson notes, "Everyone wants a miracle, but no one wants to be in a situation that requires a miracle." What are your thoughts on that quote?

As we transition from the Thanksgiving holiday of gratitude to Advent...consider the connection....gratitude prepares us to joyfully face our present with even greater hope for the future...in the first week of Advent, prayerfully consider how gratitude opens our hearts, minds and souls for the miracle of Christmas. **Reflect on the book "Messages of Gratitude for Advent and Christmas 2021", for the First Week of Advent – the week for HOPE - and the miracles of healing.**

**PRAYER:** What are some wonderful things you would like to see happen this Christmas?

Go around the circle and close your group out with prayer. Have everyone pray for the miracle they are expecting this Christmas.