

Give me a sign – Growth Group Study
20/9/2020 – John Malcolm

Read Deuteronomy 26:8, Judges 6:36–40 and Acts 2:22

What is the purpose of signs and wonders in the bible?

Is there a difference between a sign and a wonder or are they much the same thing?

Have you ever asked God for a sign? (if appropriate share this with the group)

Read John 1.15-18 and John 20:31

How is John's gospel different from the other three gospels?

John's gospel is book-ended by the theological statement at the beginning including statement that the Son himself is God, and at the end with claim Jesus is the Son of God. What does this tell us about John's own beliefs and his purpose for writing the Gospel?

In John's Gospel we find seven signs and seven "I am" sayings – is this coincidental or is there a structure in this gospel?

Does the fact John is structured and selective in his writing, rather than being an independent reporter/historian of the events as they happened change the way you read this Gospel? (How might this relate to our earlier reading from Acts 2.22?)

Read John 3:1–2, John 7:31, 9:16 and 11:47–48

What different conclusions do people come to in response to Jesus' signs?

Why do you think people reached such different conclusions about Jesus from these signs?

How are these signs more like evidence than proof?

What does this mean for us today or for others who may seek a sign from God?

Read Matthew 12:38–40, John 4:48, Luke 23:8–9

Why do you think Jesus performed many signs, but not on demand for those who asked him for proof of who he was?

John mentioned that in 2017 the landmark sign at Stirling Point had been found to inaccurate in the direction it pointed, and that the Mayor Tim Shadbolt had said, *I don't think people take its directions too seriously.*

Why, at times, are people more interested in the sign itself, rather than what it is pointing to?

How seriously do you think the people of Jesus' day took the direction of Jesus' signs?

For reflection – Look at one of the seven signs in John's gospel and try to identify what it is point to.

1st sign Water to wine John 2.11

3rd sign Healing at the pool of Bethesda John 5

5th sign Walking on water John 6.16

7th sign Raising Lazarus John 11.38

2nd sign Healing the official's son John 4.43

4th sign Feeding 5000 John 6.1

6th Healing the blind man John 9.1