

Overnight Miracle

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Fall is a time when some things come to completion and some new things begin. How would your life be different if your biggest challenge or problem were to disappear overnight? Explore the possibilities of living in a new world as soon as tomorrow.

For
Adult, Couple

Season
Fall

Needed

Bible, Overnight Miracle Questions worksheet (see last page), courage to try something new

Activity Plan

1. Begin with a prayer about new beginnings:

God of second chances and new beginnings, lead the way to a new tomorrow, starting today. Amen.

2. Refer to the Overnight Miracles Questions worksheet. Check the time when each person begins his or her turn to speak and use the last digit of the time on a cell phone or digital clock to determine the question he or she will answer. (It's okay to simply choose a question to answer, too.)
3. After all have responded to a question, take a few moments to reflect on the answers. Together, think of additional questions that might help generate insights into the situations named.
4. Take time to describe how each person's life might change if the challenging situation he or she mentioned were eliminated overnight. What difference would he or she notice first the next morning? What opportunities would be newly available? What might it mean to start living like the challenge or problem has already been eliminated?
5. Read aloud Romans 8:18-25 from your Bible (or see the text below). Discuss: *How does hope in a better tomorrow affect what a person does today? What does this scripture passage say about hope and living?*

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

6. Invite each person to consider entering a new world tomorrow. Affirm those who have the energy to address their situation in the week ahead. Agree to pray for those who are not ready or able at this time to work on their situation.



Overnight Miracle Questions

| Last Number | Question to answer |
|-------------|--|
| 1 | What do you need (that you don't have) to improve your performance at work? |
| 2 | What needs to change in order for you to make new friends or acquaintances? |
| 3 | What activity takes up more of your time than you wish it did, and causes you to not have time to do something you feel would be more significant? |
| 4 | What pressures do you experience that make you avoid talking about your faith with friends or loved ones? |
| 5 | What keeps you from getting more involved in community projects? |
| 6 | What keeps getting in the way of pursuing a passion or goal you have? |
| 7 | What would you change in your circumstances, so you could develop a deeper relationship with someone? |
| 8 | What obstacles prevent you from improving a skill or gaining a knowledge base you would like to have? |
| 9 | What would you have to eliminate to take the next step toward a major goal in your life? |
| 0 | What frustrates you most as you try to build the life you want for yourself: time, money, distance, energy, or insight? |

