

# CA210: The Miracles of Jesus

An RBC Ministries *Day of Discovery* Study

## Course Description

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In the history of the world, many religious leaders making stupendous claims have come and gone. Why then has the life and message of Jesus endured as it has? The biblical answer to this is that His claims were shown to be true by supernatural acts. This verification, the words He taught and the life He lived place Him a category distinct from all other religious leaders. This course, **The Miracles of Jesus**, considers the reasons for Jesus' miraculous life.

## Course Objectives

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- To introduce students to the basic fundamentals of the Christian faith
- To provide scholarly and historical evidence for the validity of Christianity
- To encourage logical thinking in evaluating the authenticity of the teachings of Jesus and of the Bible

## Accessibility

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If you have particular accessibility needs, please contact the CUGN Registrar at the beginning of the course. This will allow us to work directly with you to make efforts to accommodate your situation and ensure as full as possible accessibility to the course.

## Academic Honesty

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At CUGN, we believe all we do is “as unto the Lord” and we thus hold to a high academic standard of honesty; we do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. Students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty face consequences ranging from interaction with the Academic Dean to expulsion from CUGN.

Quizzes and Exams: Any student found guilty of cheating on a quiz or exam will automatically receive a score of zero for that quiz or exam. A second offense will result in automatic course failure and possible disciplinary action and/or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of cheating.

Plagiarism: If a student's work is found to be plagiarized, consequences will vary depending on the nature of the plagiarism.

If an offense is deemed unintentional, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit the work. A second offense will result in an automatic score of zero for that assignment, which may also result in failure of that course.

View [CUGN Academic Policies](#)

[www.cugn.org](http://www.cugn.org)

More serious plagiarism offenses could result in automatic course failure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from CUGN. Please view the [CUGN Academic Catalog](#) for a full definition and examples of plagiarism. If you have questions about plagiarism, or would like to request resources for learning how to avoid plagiarism, please contact our Registrar's Office at [registrar@cugn.org](mailto:registrar@cugn.org) or toll free at (888) 487-5376 ext. 3.

## Course Methods

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Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students, and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

### Media/Materials

The course will include media presentations of lectures and supplementary materials to be viewed, listened to, and/or read throughout the ten lessons of the course. Details on these materials will follow in the Course Requirements section.

- **Video-based teaching**

The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in streaming video in the Flash video format (FLV). For international or domestic students who do not have the bandwidth required to view the video (384 Kbps DSL minimum), we provide the option of listening to the teaching via audio files or reading the lesson from a transcript of the teaching video.

- **Multisensory learning**

Because the primary teaching information is provided in video, audio and PDF text documents, students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles. Multiple options are also provided for students with auditory and visual learning challenges.

- **Readings and other media**

Students should have a copy of the Bible available in order to read the Bible passages assigned in each lesson. In addition, Scripture passages are linked to online Bible tools for convenience. These online resources also provide an opportunity for students for whom English is a second language to read the Bible passages in one of numerous international translations available.

For all other required reading assignments, CUGN provides the texts for this course in a downloadable Adobe® PDF format.

### Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, CUGN offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in this course.

### “Thinking Through” Discussion Forum

This forum fosters peer-to-peer interaction in a global, threaded discussion. Students are required to respond to relevant questions posted by the instructors; students are also encouraged to read and respond to the posts of fellow students.

## Reflection

Through journaling and the use of interactive exercises, CUGN provides many opportunities for students to reflect on what they have learned, what they believe, and where they are challenged. The goal of these reflections is personal spiritual growth and transformation.

## Blog

Many of the assignments ask students to record their thoughts in a course blog. Students may use a paper notebook for this, or, as an alternative, they may use the blog to record thoughts and reflections as they go through the course. Blog entries can be viewed only by the student and by the site administrator, and are not graded.

## Lesson Objectives

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At the end of each lesson, students should be able to accomplish the objectives listed below.

### Lesson 1: Did They Really Happen?

- Understand common mistaken ideas about what a miracle is
- Articulate key New Testament terms for a miracle
- Give a biblical definition of miracle
- Summarize the initial healing and preaching ministry of Jesus Christ
- Articulate an overview of Jesus Christ's entire ministry

### Lesson 2: What Kinds of Miracles Did Jesus Do?

- Understand the basic assumptions of a naturalistic world view
- Defend the credibility of a biblical supernatural world view
- Cite key Bible texts that illustrate Christ's power over disease, nature, death and the spirit world
- Establish a view of miracles based upon the major themes of the Bible

### Lesson 3: Why Did Jesus Do Miracles?

- Explain the relationship between Christ's claims to deity and the miracles He performed
- Articulate why Eisenstein's model of the universe is more conducive to miracles than Newton's model
- Show from Scripture how Jesus' miraculous life fulfilled Old Testament prophecy
- Cite key Bible verses that authenticate the claims of Christ
- Demonstrate why Christ's resurrection from the dead speaks to the heart of the human condition
- Explain Christ's claim to deity based upon Scriptural examination

### Lesson 4: Why Did Jesus' Miracles Create Controversy (Part 1)

- Understand how both religious legalism and liberalism can influence attitudes toward the miracles of Jesus
- Explain the characteristics of the Pharisee and Sadducee religious groups of Jesus' day

- Identify controversial issues surrounding the miracles of Jesus from the first century to our present day
- Cite key biblical passages concerning the controversial nature of Jesus' miracles
- Recount various examples of Jesus' exhibition of love for people

#### Lesson 5: Why Did Jesus' Miracles Create Controversy (Part 2)

- Articulate and illustrate various responses of those who witnessed the miracles of Jesus
- Understand characteristics of an open scientific investigation of miracles versus a closed minded scientific approach
- Cite key biblical passages that support the veracity of the miracles of Jesus
- Develop a biblical understanding of Christ's power over occult forces

#### Lesson 6: Are Jesus' Miracles Still Important

- Answer the skeptic's objection: "If God would show me a miracle, I would believe in Him."
- Cite key Bible verses showing the historic reality of the miracles of Jesus
- Explain reasons for highly visible miracles accompanying the introduction of God's kingdom
- Use John the Baptist as an illustration of honest doubt being answered by biblical evidence
- Understand how the Christian message of salvation is based on the miracle of Jesus' resurrection from the dead
- Review Christ's supernatural ministry

## Course Requirements

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In order to receive a certificate of completion and/or credit for the course, the student must complete the course requirements within a 90-day period. Those requirements include:

- Listening to (or reading) the lectures for each lesson
- Reading Bible passages as assigned for each lesson
- Completing the Bible studies as assigned for each lesson
- Completing additional topical reading assignments for each lesson
- Participating in and meeting all requirements of the discussion forum (see details below)
- Keeping a blog in response to reflection questions and Bible studies
- Taking each lesson quiz and a final examination, scoring a 70% or higher average

Additional information about these requirements is provided below.

### TEACHING VIDEOS

Each of the lessons in this course contains a teaching video of approximately four to ten minutes in length. These instructional videos are required viewing, and can be watched as many times as needed. The same content is available

in an audio file and a text file (PDF) for students who can benefit from these alternative media. This course includes the following teaching videos:

- Did They Really Happen?
- What Kind of Miracles Did Jesus Do?
- Why Did Jesus Do Miracles?
- Why Did Jesus' Miracles Create Controversy? (Part 1)
- Why Did Jesus' Miracles Create Controversy? (Part 2)
- Are Jesus' Miracles Still Important?

## **BIBLE READING/STUDY**

The Bible reading or study assignments covered in this course (found in the “Warming Up”, “Digging In”, “Going Further”, and “Final Thoughts” sections of the course) should be read completely at least once and journal responses to questions are to be recorded in the students’ blogs. Each assignment should be read in the context of the lesson that covers that particular passage or topic.

## **“THINKING THROUGH” DISCUSSION FORUM**

Participants will interact with other students worldwide in an ongoing asynchronous threaded forum of several course topics in each lesson.

In order to get the fullest benefit from the discussion forums, students should complete the “Thinking Through” discussion forum assignments after they have completed the Teaching Video. Then they should return to the discussion forum after finishing the lesson to see how others respond. The following steps are instructions for completing the assignment:

- Enter “Thinking Through.”
- Read the instructions and click the Discussion Question.
- Share your thoughts with others.
- If there are multiple Discussion Questions, return and answer the remaining question(s).
- Take the time to read other students’ postings.

CUGN requires that students’ discussion forum posts consist of at least 2 to 3 well-developed paragraphs. Think of posts as mini-essays, where you present an idea and support that idea with details, examples, personal experiences, etc. Students are required to complete answers to all Discussion Questions in each lesson.

Objective: to develop critical thinking skills through personal interaction with the content of the course and the responses of others within a diverse community of learners.

## **ADDITIONAL READING**

Students will be required to read supplementary materials for many of the lessons. Those materials are listed below and are provided in downloadable format in the Additional Reading section of each lesson:

- *Knowing God Through John*
- *Knowing God Through the Whole Bible*
- *Who Is This Man Who Says He’s God?*

- *The Compassion of Jesus*
- *Do You Believe in Magic?*
- *The Miracles of Jesus*

Additional study on this topic can be found in many publications including the following recommended books:

- *The Gospels for All Christians: Rethinking the Gospel Audiences*, Richard Bauckham
- *Jesus and the Gospels*, Craig L. Blomberg
- *The Historical Christ and the Jesus of Faith*, C. Stephen Evans
- *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, Everett Ferguson
- *Evidence for the Resurrection*, Sean McDowell, Josh McDowell
- *Christianity and the Nature of Science*, J. P. Moreland
- *Many Infallible Proofs*, Henry M. Morris
- *The Soul of Science*, Nancy Pearcey, Charles Thaxton
- *Understanding Christ*, John R. W. Stott
- *Counterfeit Miracles*, B. B. Warfield

## GLOSSARY

Throughout the course, students will find glossary terms highlighted with hyperlink connections to explanations and definitions. Students should become familiar with these words and their meanings as a requirement of this coursework.

## QUIZZES AND EXAMS

The quizzes and exams will cover the material from the recorded lectures, Bible reading, other reading, and the presentations. The Bible reading and textbooks should be read in accordance with the schedule of lectures as outlined in this syllabus (i.e., assigned chapters and pages should be read along with listening to each lecture).

## Course Grading and Requirements

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### QUIZZES AND EXAMS

Quizzes	40% of Course Grade
Final Exam	60% of Course Grade

### OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before credit is awarded to any student.

### ACSI/SINGLE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

If you are taking this course for Continuing Education Units (CEUs), or as a single course and would like a Certificate of Completion, course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded.

## Notes Regarding This Syllabus

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This syllabus is designed to provide learners with an overview of the course. Specific assignments are contained in each lesson.

Individuals taking the class for academic credit are responsible for the syllabus requirements of the specific institution through which the course is offered. Each individual institution has reserved the right to add additional reading requirements and to alter the syllabus to meet their accreditation requirements. Students seeking academic credit should check with their academic institution for details.

*Christ-Centered Learning – Anytime, Anywhere*