

Christians interpret the Bible differently. Here are four responses to the miracle stories.

1

Jesus was a miracle-worker because he was God in the flesh. Christians today should also pray for healing miracles – Jesus is still alive and God is the same today as he was then. He can heal, and he does too.

2

Jesus was a miracle-worker and the son of God, so we should worship him. However, healing can take place through applying modern medicine too – and that is another way God heals today. Prayer is important, but so is using our skills and knowledge.

3

The stories of Jesus' miracles are not to be taken literally: the writers wanted to show how special Jesus was. Today we need to look for a spiritual meaning rather than a literal one. Here, Jesus shows that anyone can come to Jesus and be given new spiritual life.

4

Jesus did not heal everyone who was ill in Galilee when he was on Earth. Not everyone is healed when Christians pray – illness and dying are part of life. Jesus does promise the spiritual healing that forgiveness can bring – healing a person's relationship with God.

Imagine two Christians talking about the story of the healing of the centurion's servant (Luke 7:1-10). They want to try to put Jesus' good news into action in the world today. How should they do that?!

### SKETCH OUT THEIR CONVERSATION, TAKING TWO OF THE VIEWPOINTS GIVEN ABOVE

Here are some suggestions about the meaning of this story to include in the conversation:

- *Jesus could heal anyone because he was God, and so...*
- *Faith is needed for healing, and so...*
- *Jesus wasn't prejudiced against Romans or servants, and so...*
- *Christians today can believe in miracles because...*
- *When someone is ill, asking Jesus for help (by praying) is important as well as medicine because...*
- *God can heal today, and often he uses our medical skills because...*
- *Prayer for healing does not seem to work for many people. This does not mean... This might mean...*
- *Spiritual healing includes forgiveness, bringing people back into a relationship with God. This is important because...*
- *I think this means we should...*
- *Setting up a clinic to serve the poorest would mean that...*