



## LIFE GROUP LESSON 8 – John 9

★ Indicates key questions to use if you are meeting every other week. Full text of John 9 is at the end of this lesson.

### HEALING FROM BLINDNESS

This story in John 9 is one of the great miracles recorded in John – the healing of the blind man. It is the 6<sup>th</sup> sign in the “Book of Signs” and is only found in the gospel of John. It is an account of great theological significance; Jesus makes it clear that this miracle is not just about a man getting physical sight but about confronting our own spiritual blindness and how only Jesus can shine the light into our lives.

Read John 9:1-12

★ Question: What strikes you about this miracle? What questions do you have about it?

★ Question: What do verses 3-5 teach us about disease and hardship in our lives and why sometimes God heals and sometimes he doesn't?

### SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS AND BLIND SPOTS

**One way to think about spiritual blindness is to think about our blind spots.** A blind spot is a place you don't see and *you don't know you don't see it!* If you're driving a car and there's a car positioned just so to the right of your car, you can't see it and so you don't know it's there. Not knowing it is there is what makes it a blind spot, true physical or spiritual blindness. We don't know what we aren't seeing until somehow the light shines upon it.

Read John 9:13-41 (possibly have two or three people read it, it is a long passage)

★ Question: Discuss the behavior of the following people, asking these questions:

- What was their reaction to the miracle Jesus performed?
- Would you say they had blind spots or showed spiritual blindness?
- How are they like you and me in their blindness or in their seeing?

The man who was healed -

The man's parents -

The Pharisees/Jewish leaders -

## **OUR PERSONAL BLIND SPOTS**

In the sermon, Pastor Beth mentioned several kinds of blind spots we might struggle with:

- Spiritual blind spots – not seeing Jesus for who he is, not allowing Him to be Lord of our lives
- Marital blind spots – not seeing how our behaviors or attitudes are affecting our marriages, or blaming our partner for the problems in the marriage
- Intercultural blind spots – not recognizing or appreciating the experiences of others who are unlike us, minimizing or assuming we know all there is to know about their struggles
- Emotional blind spots – wounds, abuse, addictions, or childhood traumas that have caused us to behave in ways that affect our ability to love or be loved.

★ **Question: If you were to ask the person closest to you – a family member, spouse, or best friend – what your blind spots are, what do you think they would say?**

**Question: Would you agree with what they would say? Where do YOU think you might have blind spots?**

## **FOR ADDITIONAL APPLICATION**

★ **Question: What can you do this week or this month to begin to uncover what might be blind spots in your life? (Remember, if they are truly blind spots, you don't know they are there! So you will need help to uncover them.)**

## **FOR PRAYER**

**As you go into prayer for one another today:**

- Allow some time of quiet for people to listen to God, allowing Him to speak to them about any blind spots they may have.
- Allow time for people to confess any blind spots God is revealing (if desired) and to pray for healing and change. Remember that healing of our blind spots happens in community.
- Pray for each other to have a humble spirit that is willing to uncover the areas where we may be blind and need to see more clearly.

## John 9

### Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

<sup>8</sup> His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

<sup>10</sup> “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

<sup>11</sup> He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

<sup>12</sup> “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

### The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

<sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. <sup>19</sup> “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

<sup>20</sup> “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

<sup>25</sup> He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

<sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

<sup>28</sup> Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. <sup>32</sup> Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

<sup>34</sup> To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

### **Spiritual Blindness**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**"

<sup>36</sup> "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said, "**You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.**"

<sup>38</sup> Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "**For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.**"

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, "**If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.**"

*-- The New International Version, (2011). Zondervan.*