

**Week 4: Love that Lights the Way** John 9:1-12 Jesus Heals a Blind Man

**Know:** Share names around the group, and speculate aloud how being born blind might have changed your life.

**Grow:** Have a volunteer read John 9:1-12. (There are no parallel accounts of this passage in scripture.)

**Commentary:**

*“Who sinned?”* The Jewish people knew God was a moral Person. But “morality” was translated into a simple formula: Those who do right will be rewarded; those who do wrong will be punished. It followed, from this formula, that any personal disasters were evidence of sin. Conversely, prosperity was a sign of God’s approval.

This formula underlies the disciples’ question about the blind man, “Who sinned, this man or his parents?” That is, was the man’s blindness a punishment for ancestral evil?

Jesus’s answer was, “Neither.” The blind man did not serve as a demonstration of the impact of sin, but rather as a demonstration of the power and love of God. His tragedy was a backdrop for blessing!

➤ What question did the disciples ask Jesus with regard to the man’s blindness? \_\_\_\_\_

The Jews of Jesus’ day assumed that human misfortune was traceable to sin, normally the sin of the victim but in the case of a birth defect, probably the sin of the parents. Where do we have a tendency to assign blame today?

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➤ Why did Jesus tell the disciples that this man had been born blind? (verse 3) \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Have you ever blamed some of your own troubles on your sin from the past? How can this be destructive in our lives?

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➤ Why is it important that we do not judge others when they are struggling and having difficulties? (reference Matthew 7:1-5) \_\_\_\_\_

**“I am”**

➤ Jesus makes an “I am” statement here: “I am the \_\_\_\_\_” (verse 9:5) . What are some of the other “I am” statements that Jesus claims in the Gospel of John?

John 6:35 \_\_\_\_\_ 8:12 \_\_\_\_\_ 10:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_

John 10:11-14 \_\_\_\_\_ 11:25-26 \_\_\_\_\_ 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:1, 5 \_\_\_\_\_

How do you see Jesus as the answer to the basic spiritual needs of life that are represented by these images?

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- Read Exodus 3:13-15. What conclusion would a “good Jew” have drawn about Jesus based on this passage?
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### Healing

- What means of healing did Jesus employ with the blind man?  
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- How did the blind man’s neighbors respond to his new condition?  
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- From what “blindness” has God healed you?  
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- In what ways has God healed you?  
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### Read John 9:13-34

- To whom was the blind man taken? \_\_\_\_\_ Why were they so concerned about the day of the week? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why were the blind man’s parents interrogated?  
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- What did the blind man say about Jesus?  
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- Why do you think that Jesus thought it necessary to challenge the religious authority of his day?  
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- How do you respond when your authority is challenged?  
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- In what ways are Christians today complacent?  
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- Have you ever challenged authority? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?  
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- In what ways does Jesus symbolically re-open once-blind eyes?  
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### Read John 9:35-41

- Jesus looked the blind man up when he heard that the Pharisees had expelled him from the synagogue. What do you think it was like for the man to risk being disowned by his family and friends because of his statement of faith in Jesus?  
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- Why do you think that the Pharisees had trouble recognizing their own spiritual blindness?  
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- What in today's world do you think keeps people in spiritual blindness?  
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- Early in this passage, Jesus claimed that he was the "light of the world." How did he bring light into the blind man's life? \_\_\_\_\_ We live in a broken world. What do you think the world would be like without the Gospel of Christ?  
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- What is one cause or person for which you would risk being disowned by your family and all of your friends?  
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**Go:**

- Name an area of your life where you are witnessing challenges? Where Jesus is stripping away your own spiritual blindness?  
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- What is Jesus calling you to do this week in light of this story?  
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- Who do you see struggling with spiritual blindness that you need to pray for this week?  
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