



# Spring Study Discussion Guide #8

**Sermon Title:** How God Shows His Work

**Biblical Reference:** John 9

**Date Preached:** Sunday, March 3rd, 2023, @ 11am

**Fall Study Date:** Wednesday, March 8th, 2023

## Ice Breaker

To get to know each other as a group let us go around the room and have everyone answer the ice breaker question.

Would you rather go on a relaxing vacation or an adventure hike? Why?

## Sermon Summary

This past Sunday Pastor gave a message about how God shows His work through our lives to the rest of the world. He used the story of Jesus healing the blind man from John chapter nine and showed how the worst thing in the blind man's life was actually the best thing. The blind man was healed and made new. Simply talking about what had happened to him became a testimony to everyone he met. When those conversations got him into trouble with his former companions, that trouble led him to worship the Lord. This discussion guide will help us apply the blessings of this story and in turn, be a blessing to God and others.

## Quick Review

**Ask a volunteer to read:**

*Joh 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.*

*Joh 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?*

*Joh 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

*Joh 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

*Joh 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

*Joh 9:6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,*

*Joh 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.*

*Joh 9:8 The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?*

*Joh 9:9 Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.*

- Were there any insights the Lord showed you or anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? Either from the sermon or from your personal study of this passage?
- How did the Holy Spirit speak to your heart from these passages/lessons?

## My Testimony

The blind man was in a situation where Jesus came and met the greatest need in his life. This created all kinds of problems after he began telling everyone he knew.

- Have you experienced God turning a curse into a blessing in your life? Have you ever experienced difficulties after testifying about what God did for you? Could you describe your experience? Did this affect your relationships with family or work?

## Digging Deeper

### **1. The Worst Thing Becomes the Best Thing**

Were you to listen to the blind man tell his story, he would say the worst thing that happened to me became the best thing that happen to me. My blindness brought me in contact with Jesus Christ and my blindness was the catalyst God used to implement change in my life.

Joseph's ascent to throne in Egypt after first being betrayed by his brothers is another Biblical example we could point to. He talked about how Adam and Eve fell in the garden and how the Lord stepped in with a plan of redemption. An example from our time is Nick Vujicic, who was born without limbs. After meeting Jesus Nick wrote a book "Life Without Limits."

Think about your own life.

*Ask a volunteer to read:*

*Joh 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?*

*Joh 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

*Joh 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

*Joh 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- What is most significant to you in this passage? Please explain.
- Do you know any blind people? What have you observed from your relationship with them? What do you think life was like for this blind man at that time?

In verse two we see the natural way of looking at tragedies. People often see tragedies in other people's lives and wonder what reason God brought this upon them. Jesus pointed out that the blind man's condition was not based on the actions of him or his parents.

- Do you ever have troubling thoughts or questions about these types of tragedies in your life or the lives of others? Can you share those with us? What has helped you when these thoughts come up?
- Verse three says this is where the works of God **should** be manifest. How have you witnessed God's work in these situations?
- We all grow up with hinderances or handicaps to success. We all have the common problem of sin. How has your faith in Jesus changed this for you?
- Do you have things in your life like this you struggle with that you believe it hard for God's work to be made manifest?
- In this story the blind man received sight. Most of the time this is not how we experience life. Can you give us some tips on dealing with things you want to change but they do not change ?

2. **A New Person is Created**

In the following verses we read about how the blind man received sight. The change that came over him was so profound that his neighbors had trouble recognizing him. This is how the Lord's work was manifest in his life.

***Ask a volunteer to read:***

*Joh 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.*

*Joh 9:8 The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?*

*Joh 9:9 Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- What, in this passage, is the most significant to you? Please explain.
- What were you like before coming in a right relationship with Jesus? What were you known for? What is the biggest change you have noticed?
- This change happens at different speeds in different people's lives. Why do you think that is? What were the things that changed fast and what took longer to change?
- Many people believe on Jesus yet there is no noticeable change in their lives either by their family or by their neighbors? Why do you believe this happens?
- When people get saved it changes them. Can you tell us about the biggest change you have witnessed in a person?

**3. Talking Becomes Testifying**

In the following verses we see the blind man could not help but talking about Jesus and testifying about what God had done for him. He could not answer all the theological questions, but he knew what God had done for him. This is also how Gods work is manifest in our lives.

***Ask a volunteer to read:***

*Joh 9:10 Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?*

*Joh 9:11 He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- Why is it that we sometimes have a challenging time testifying about Jesus?
- This conversation the blind man had does not seem to be difficult or awkward yet many of us find it awkward and difficult to testify about Jesus. Why do you believe that is?
- Maybe it is not awkward for you to talk to people about Jesus. What tips can you share with the rest of us?

- Tell us about your neighbors. Do your neighbors like you? What neighbor does God put on your heart most often?
- Have you ever had a conversation with your neighbors about Jesus? Is this difficult for you?
- Can you tell us about a recent time you were able to talk to someone about what good things the Lord had done for you?

#### **4. The Tolerated Become Intolerable**

In the following verses we see the work God did for the blind man made him incompatible with the people who used to tolerate him.

*Ask a volunteer to read:*

*Joh 9:30 The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.*

*Joh 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*

*Joh 9:32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.*

*Joh 9:33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.*

*Joh 9:34 They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What, in this passage, is the most significant to you? Please explain.
- Can you identify some of the barriers that prevent him from fitting in?
- Can you explain how this happened in your life? Was it difficult for you to lose those connections?
- Many Christians are closer with people who do not believe in Jesus than they are with people at church. Why do you think this is?

#### **5. Woe Leads to Worship**

In the following verses we see Jesus coming and comforting the blind man and his troubles led to a time of worship.

***Ask a volunteer to read:***

*Joh 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?*

*Joh 9:36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?*

*Joh 9:37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.*

*Joh 9:38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- What, in this passage, is the most significant to you? Please explain.
- Can you tell us about a similar time in your life?
- What advice would you give to a young Christian facing the situation the blind man faced?
- As you have grown in the Lord has your view of trouble changed?

## Taking It Home

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they can do because of discovering the truths and principles in the text:

1. What truth or principle in this text was most impactful for you?
2. How did this truth or principal challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
3. How will you put into practice what you have learned today?