

# John 9

## “Jesus: The Light of the World (Part 2)”

**Scripture:** John 9

**Memory Verse:** John 9:38 *“Then he [the man] said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.”*

**Lesson Focus:** We will first follow the story of this blind man getting healed and see how it connects to Jesus being the Light of the world. Then we will see how this event broadly symbolizes our own spiritual situation and is yet another miracle given to persuade the spiritually blind to come to Jesus so that they may see.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Jesus Healing Blind Man, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Blind Man Receiving Sight

**Starter Activity:** Blind Challenge #1

After worship, we will have all of the kids close their eyes and dismiss them to their appropriate places as if they were blind. We will help you organize them into lines with their hands on each other’s shoulders and then challenge them to go back to their classrooms (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) or up on stage (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade) with their eyes closed.

You decide when it is OK to have them open their eyes again. After you get them settled into their classroom, then ask some of the following questions:

- 1) How would your life be different if you were actually blind?
- 2) What are some things that you normally do that you would not be able to do anymore?
- 3) For those of you who wear glasses, what issues do you have when you take the glasses off? \*

In our lesson today, we will see Jesus heal a blind man. This is the sixth miracle encountered in the gospel of John. While we are happy for the blind man and marvel at Jesus’s power, we must remember that miracles like this had a broader purpose for us.

**Read John 20:31.**

Q: What was that purpose?

A: That we might believe and trust in Him so that we would have life in Him!

Let’s take a look!

## **Bible Study:**

**John 9:1-2:** Jesus and His disciples encounter a man that was born blind. Imagine for a second that you had been blind your whole life. You had never been able to see anything but darkness.

Q: What senses would you have to rely upon much more heavily in life?

**Teachers:** Blind Challenge #2. Consider bringing in a couple of “feely” boxes for the kids to use their sense of touch. Just grab a couple of old tissue boxes or cereal boxes and fill them with some unusual items. Then have the kids put their hands in to touch and see if they can guess what it is. I would recommend bringing in items with weird texture to spice it up. Make it fun!

So this poor man has been this way his whole life and instead of showing kindness to the man, the disciples seem to wonder what the juicy gossip is behind his condition.

Q: How many of you have seen the movie, “Wonder”? Auggie was born with physical defects and most of the kids found it a lot easier to wonder why he was this way (and make fun of him in the process) then to actually reach out to him and be his friend.

This reminds us that we live in a broken world. Sin and suffering entered God’s originally perfect creation when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Ever since then, we have had people born blind, deaf, unhealthy, etc. And we are reminded that we also are broken when we look on kids like Auggie with ridicule rather than compassion.

**John 9:3:** Even though the world is broken and full of suffering because of our sin, Jesus reminds us here that God can still be trusted to work things together for good!

Jesus with His answer tells the disciples to get their mind off of what caused this and onto what God’s purpose for it is. While suffering is hard and it doesn’t always make sense, Jesus reminds us here that there is NO SUFFERING outside of God’s purpose.

**John 9:4-5:** Jesus reminds them of His second great I AM statement that we discussed last week: That He is the Light of the world. You might remember how mad this made the religious leaders as Jesus was claiming to be both the promised Messiah and God with this title.

Well, now He is going to back up His claims with another miracle!

**John 9:6-7:** Wow! Remember this guy had always been blind. He had NEVER seen trees, animals, blue sky, etc. This is amazing that this guy can now see!

**Teachers:** Blind Challenge #3. Consider blind-folding a kid in your class and act out these verses. You can pretend to “anoint” his/her eyes and then instruct them to go to the pool (use a little bit of water if you like). You decide where the pool is and challenge

them to feel their way to the pool. When they get there, take off the blindfold and ask them what it was like!

Q: Could Jesus have just spoken a word to heal this guy? Yes!

Q: Why do you think Jesus used the dirt, saliva, and the pool? \*

Notice that Jesus freely gives the man the gift of sight, but the man still had to receive the gift by responding with faith and trust in Jesus. It is not until the man actually goes to the pool and shows his trust in Jesus Christ that he is actually healed!

Remember the man could not even see Jesus. How easy it would be for anyone to play a cruel trick on this guy and tell him to do these things as a joke! Yet, the man trusted in Jesus and he was healed!

**John 9:8-12:** This shows the utter astonishment of the people who knew the man was blind from birth. Notice that some of them were so amazed they didn't even think it was him! They were so used to him being a blind beggar that they thought it impossible that he was the same person they knew their whole lives!

Unfortunately, not all shared in the joy and excitement of this man being given sight.

Q: How do you think the religious leaders (the Pharisees, who each chapter seem to be getting more and more mad!) responded? **John 9:13-31** shows their reaction to this man being healed. Even with a miracle to backup Jesus's claim to be the Light of the world, they still refuse to come to the Light and believe. (**Teachers:** Consider skipping this section and just summarize)

**John 9:32-34:** Yet the man stands up for Jesus! But look at what it cost him. He was thrown out of Jewish society which was a huge deal back then.

How blind and arrogant these religious leaders are! While they have seen the evidence of Jesus working supernaturally in this man for good, they are actually blinded by their hatred of Jesus.

Q: Is the man all alone though? No!

**John 9:35-38:** Jesus seeks him out and now he actually sees Jesus face-to-face for the first time since he has been given sight! But not only does he see the man who healed him, he sees the One who made him, and understands that this is the Son of God.

Q: What does it say he does in v. 38? He believes and he worships! You only worship God! Jesus is God!

Q: How many of you are familiar with the worship song, "Amazing Grace?"

**Teachers:** Consider having the class sing the first verse together and then emphasize the very last line, “*Was blind, but now I see*”.

Q: In this line are we singing about physical blindness or spiritual blindness? Spiritual!

**Key Point:** This miracle is one of the many in the gospel of John that were written that we also might trust and believe so that Jesus would rescue us from our spiritual blindness (**John 20:31**). Let’s compare this man’s physical situation to our spiritual situation:

- 1) Are we spiritually blind and lost in sin from birth? Yes! \*
- 2) Are we able to heal ourselves of spiritual blindness by ourselves? No!
- 3) Is Jesus the only One who can cure us of spiritual blindness? Yes!
- 4) Does Jesus require us to respond by trusting in Him like this man did? Yes!
- 5) When our spiritual eyes are opened like his were, are we changed in such a way that people that know us best might not recognize us anymore? \*
- 6) When we walk with Jesus in new life are some people going to reject us like the crowd rejected this man? Yes!
- 7) But just like Jesus looked after this man, will Jesus also look after us? Yes!

If you are a believer in Jesus, this man’s story symbolizes your spiritual story! For you were spiritually blind, but now you see! Go out this week in worship of Jesus, walk in His amazing grace, and live your life His way!

If you are not a believer in Jesus, then you are still blinded by sin and darkness like the religious leaders. Maybe you think you are OK on your own? That is exactly what the religious leaders thought and it does not end well for them!

ABCs of salvation:

- Admit that you are a sinner and have broken God’s law (1 John 1:8)
- Believe that Jesus Christ took your sins upon Himself when he died on the cross and that He has taken your punishment upon Himself (John 3:16, Romans 5:8)
- Confess your sin and that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9-10)

**Teachers:** If any of your kids respond to this gospel call, please be sure to pray with them and talk about it with their parents afterwards. Also give them one of the new believer’s pamphlets that are in the drawers of your room.

# Bring It Home

*(Devotional for the Family)*

**Lesson Theme: “Jesus: The Light of the World (Part 2)”**

**Scripture: John 9**

**Memory Verse:** John 9:38 *“Then he [the man] said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.”*

**Teachers/Parents:** Throughout our study we had several activities to help the kids experience blindness. Discuss with your kids what it would be like to be completely blind from birth. How would your life be different? What things do you do every day that you might not be able to do anymore? Have you ever given God thanks for your eyesight?

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **John 9:1-3**. This introduces the blind man into our text and the disciples wrestle with what caused the man to have this condition. Jesus’s answer shifts the focus off of the cause and onto God’s purpose for it. How does Jesus response give us hope and courage in the face of difficult suffering?
- 2) Read **John 9:6-7**. Jesus certainly could have just willed the man to be healed. Why do you think He did it this way with the dirt, saliva, and the pool?
- 3) The pool of Siloam where the man was healed has a rich biblical history going back to the Old Testament king Hezekiah. This pool has recently been excavated and discovered by archaeologists ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pool\\_of\\_Siloam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pool_of_Siloam)). Why are archaeological finds like this significant to our faith?
- 4) In **John 9:8-12**, we see how the people who knew the man were in utter astonishment and disbelief that “he was blind, yet now he sees.” This man’s experience is an analog of our spiritual experience when we come to Christ in faith. Discuss someone that you may know that after he/she came to Christ you hardly recognized them anymore.
- 5) Read **John 9:32-34**, where we see the other reaction to Jesus’s healing work on this man. What was it? Now read **John 9:35**. What do you see Jesus doing immediately afterwards and how should that give us confidence when we are rejected because of our faith in Jesus Christ?
- 6) Read **John 9:38**. Why is it significant that the man “worshiped” Jesus? Read **Exodus 20:3** (the first of the 10 commandments) which provides the background of Jewish mono-theistic culture. How is Christianity still mono-theistic (only one God) despite worshiping Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?