

Jesus Heals The Blind Man

John 9:1-41

MEMORY VERSE

JOHN 9:39

“For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many sheets of paper and pencils or crayons as the number of children in your class, a box or bag containing several objects such as an acorn or nut, a car key, a stone, a barrette, a ring, and an unusual kitchen gadget (be sure there are no sharp objects).

Sheets of paper with rocks, vicious animals, a cliff, pieces of glass, a robber, an outdoor cooking area, a trash heap, a hornet's nest, and the Pool of Siloam drawn on each.

Three different colored cups and three pieces of cardboard (two colored solid black, one with a brightly colored light bulb drawn onto it)

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Living Without Sight

Give each child a piece of paper and pencil or crayon. Have them reach into a box or bag that they cannot see inside and feel one of several objects: such as an acorn or nut, a car key, a stone, a barrette, a ring, an unusual kitchen gadget (be sure there are no sharp objects).

Let them feel it for about 30 seconds and have them draw what it is on their sheets of paper. Make your requirements age appropriate; for older children you can require a higher level of accuracy in size and shape of the objects.

When your class is done drawing, empty the contents of the box or bag for their examination. Have them explain what it was like to try to understand an object without the benefit of seeing it.

LESSON TIME!

The prophet Isaiah predicted that when the Messiah would come, He would do many miracles. The Messiah would be someone special, the “Son of God.” We are told that He would “open eyes that are blind” (Isaiah 42:7).

We are going to see Jesus give sight to a man who was blind from birth. Jesus proves to the world that He truly is the Messiah, the Holy One of Israel. Jesus often healed the blind, but just before He healed the man in our lesson today, He proclaimed that He was “the light of the world,” (John 8:12). Jesus would be the One to heal us all of our spiritual blindness, a blindness that cripples our heart, which is filled with the darkness of sin. As a public demonstration of His claim, He gave sight to a man born blind.

Jesus is the light of the world.

JOHN 9:1-5

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

What a tragedy it would be to be born blind, never to have seen anything in your life. Just think; this man had never seen people or colors or trees or flowers, only darkness. What a sad condition to be in. You would only know darkness in the world you live in. In that day and age, he could be nothing more than a beggar, hoping others would have compassion on him and give him money to provide for his food and clothes.

Yes, this was a tragedy. But an even greater tragedy is the veil of blindness over the minds and hearts of unbelievers who are deceived by Satan to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:4-6). This is called spiritual blindness. Every one of us is born with this blindness because we are all sinners. But whenever a man turns to Jesus, the veil is taken away, and he is able to see (2 Corinthians 3:16). Jesus **is the light of the world**; He brings light to the hearts of those in darkness (Acts 26:18).

It was a common belief in Jewish culture that tragedy and suffering were a direct result of some great sin, and unfortunately, the religious leaders and their followers believed this man was blind because of sin. Though this condition was inherited from his parents, no one felt compelled to help him.

It is very easy to see a need in someone's life without doing anything about it. We can look at someone's needs and think they are in that situation because of some sin or bad judgment. Excuses help us avoid responsibility when it comes to helping others, but Jesus knew this man needed a touch from God. When Jesus looked at him, He saw his need and earnestly met it. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Since He is the light of the world, He gives us salvation to meet our greatest need. **Jesus is the light of the world.**

JOHN 9:6-12

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

It must have been embarrassing for the blind man to have Jesus make mud from His spit and rub it in his eyes. You can be sure that this man experienced some cruel things in his life, but this must have felt awful.

Why would Jesus use spit and dirt when He could have just said, “See” to the man? It showed the hypocritical religious leaders the problem with replacing God’s law with man’s traditions. No one was allowed to do work on the Sabbath Day, and making mud by spitting on the ground was considered work by the Pharisees. But Jesus taught them that the well being of a blind man was more important than manmade rules.

The instructions Jesus gave to this man could not have been more simple; “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” The blind man simply went, washed, and came back seeing. Jesus helped strengthen this man’s faith, for his simple obedience is all Jesus required. All this man had to do was trust in Jesus and obey.

Jesus made this healing so simple for the man, just like He makes salvation for us. All we need to do to be saved is repent of our sins and trust in Jesus to save us. Jesus can remove the darkness of our sins and give us a new life, for **Jesus is the light of the world.**

Go to the Pool

Ask for some volunteers from your class to be blindfolded. Each blindfolded student will have a guide who is not blindfolded. After blindfolding your students lay out an obstacle course of hazards a blind person might encounter in a typical Biblical village.

Draw rocks, vicious animals, a cliff, pieces of glass, a robber, an outdoor cooking area, a trash heap, a hornet’s nest, etc., on sheets of paper. Instruct your guides to maneuver your “blind” students to the “Pool of Siloam.” The guides should tell the blindfolded students the hazards that are approaching and see if they can steer clear of them. Ask your blindfolded students to imagine what it would feel like to encounter those things without sight.

Have your blindfolded students share with the class what it felt like to not see all of those hazards and how good it felt to get to see again.

Could you imagine the excitement this man experienced as he made his way through the streets where he once walked in darkness? But not everyone shared in his celebration of this miraculous healing. Some of the people had a hard time believing that this was the same blind man, but many did believe. **Jesus is the light of the world.**

We need to understand that not everyone will be excited about our new life as a follower of Jesus. We will soon see that this man will face rejection despite the healing Jesus did for him.

JOHN 9:13-23

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.

And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

"but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

When God does something exciting in our life, there are some people who will not share our excitement. Some of the religious leaders hated Jesus and everyone who believed in Him. Because of their rejection of Jesus as the Messiah, they would persecute this man. Those who are stubborn and willingly disobedient to God's Word hate Jesus and every work He does in the lives of those who surrender to Him.

We have to be prepared for those who would reject us as Christians. Jesus said that we are blessed when we are persecuted and spoken evil of for His namesake (Matthew 5:10-12). We should rejoice when others see that Jesus is living in us. **Jesus is the light of the world.** It is a blessing to communicate the love of Jesus with others.

This man refused to be intimidated by these religious leaders and made a stand for Jesus and the miracle He worked in his life. You can be sure that his parents wanted to share in their son's miracle but they were afraid of the religious leaders and their power. Their son stood alone for what Jesus did in his life. Unfortunately, his parents were afraid of losing their friends and position in their synagogue and left their son to face the angry religious leaders alone.

JOHN 9:24-34

So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."

He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples."

"We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!"

"Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

"Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.

"If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

By now the man who had been blind had heard the same questions over and over. He did not know how he was healed. But he knew that his life had been miraculously changed and was not afraid to tell the truth. He simply told them what happened, "I was blind, and now I see." We do not need to know all the answers in order to share Jesus with others, but we do need to be a good witness by telling others what Jesus has done for us and the change He has made in our life.

The religious leaders were very sure of themselves, and they considered Jesus a sinner. They hated everything about Jesus and the things He did, and for that reason this man's faith was severely tested. He was slandered and cast out from the Temple. Sometimes when we follow Jesus those who do not believe in Him may persecute us. You may lose friends. Some even lose their life. But we must remember that no one can ever take away the eternal life given to us by Jesus. Though the hearts of the religious leaders were filled with darkness, the light of Jesus shown in this man's heart, for **Jesus is the light of the world.**

Looking for the Light

You will need three different colored cups and three small pieces of cardboard. The cardboard pieces should be small enough to fit inside the cup. Make two pieces of cardboard solid black; draw a brightly colored light bulb on the third. Write or tape a number on each cup. Before class, write on the chalkboard which colored cup will have the light under it. Cover the answer by taping a piece of paper over it.

Place the cups upside down on a table or floor. Move the cups around so that the class cannot remember which cup is covering the light. Allow some of your students to try and guess which cup has the light under it; some will guess right and others will guess wrong.

Tell your class that if they had all known what was under the piece of paper on the chalkboard, they all would have guessed right. Take the piece of paper down and show them the answer.

Explain to the class that the Old Testament of the Bible prophesied about who Jesus would be. The religious leaders that were so knowledgeable about Scripture should have recognized Jesus because they already had the answer in the Bible. They chose not to believe even when they had the answer.

JOHN 9:35-41

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."

Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?"

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

Look who finds this man. Jesus again seeks him out to help him understand who He is and calls him to a commitment of faith in the One who healed him. Jesus cares for our physical needs, but our spiritual need is much greater. The man wanted to believe, but he was ignorant of who Jesus is.

After Jesus revealed that He is the "Son of Man," which was a title of the Messiah, the man responded in faith and worshipped Him. He not only gained physical sight, but spiritual sight as he recognized Jesus as Master, then Prophet, then Lord. When we turn to Jesus, we begin to see Him differently. The longer we walk with Him the better we will understand who He is. Peter tells us to "grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world." Jesus wants us to know that He will pronounce decisions on the ungodly like a judge (John 5:22, 27). The blind that come to sight are those who, admitting their sinfulness, trust Jesus for their salvation. Unfortunately, the religious leaders claimed to see, thinking that

God favored them because of who they were. They failed to see their need for Jesus and willfully sinned, bringing judgment upon themselves.

Everyone needs Jesus because we live in spiritual darkness without Him. Do you need a new life like the blind man did? Like him, you too can be changed by Jesus, and receive a new life by walking in the light of His mercy and love. Jesus can remove your spiritual darkness, for truly **Jesus is the light of the world.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thankfulness that Jesus has come to bring light into this world. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.