

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

**OUR FAITH
HAS A COST**

Open it

1. What do you think would be the hardest thing to do if you couldn't see?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 9:1–41.

2. Why was the man born blind, according to Jesus?
3. How does Jesus heal the man?
4. Why was there division among the Pharisees after the blind man got his sight?
5. Why were the parents of the blind man afraid of the Jews?
6. What conclusion does the formerly blind man draw about Jesus?
7. What reason does Jesus give for coming into the world?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Read John 9:1–17.

There is some confusion in the beginning of the story about why the man was born blind. The disciples seem to think it is because of the blind man's sin or the sins of the blind man's parents. Jesus corrects them saying that it isn't either! The man was blind so that God's work could be shown through him!

We often ask the same questions ourselves and assume what the disciples assume. We experience something we'd rather not, and we assume it is because we, or someone else involved, did something to offend God. Even though there are certainly consequences for our actions, sinful actions included, sometimes we face adversity just so God can work through it—just so we can grow in our faith!

8. What are some difficult things you have experienced that weren't necessarily because of sin? How did you see God work through that?

9. If we can't use difficulty to determine whether we are on the right track, how can we know we are doing what God wants?

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Don't Stop Believin'

Read John 9:18–41.

“Tim Chester, in his book, *You Can Change*, asserts that underlying every sinful behavior and negative emotion is a failure to believe a truth about God. He then suggests four liberating truths as a good diagnostic tool for addressing sin in our lives:

1. God is great—so we do not have to be in control.
2. God is glorious—so we do not have to fear others.
3. God is good—so we do not have to look elsewhere.
4. God is gracious—so we do not have to prove ourselves.”

—*Gospel Fluency*, Jeff Vanderstelt

At the end of this story, we see the man who was blind re-encounter Jesus and declare his faith in Him. Most likely, at some point, you have also declared your faith in Jesus. But even after declaring our faith in Jesus, there will still be challenges to our faith, and the four listed above are common.

10. Which of the four statements above do you find the hardest to believe? Why?

11. What is something you can do every day to remind yourself of one of these truths?

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Open Your Eyes

Read John 9:31–41.

Jesus started this story by saying that this man was blind not because he had sinned or because his parents had sinned, *“but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”* It’s kind of interesting that Jesus doesn’t say so that the work (singular) of God would be displayed in him, but so that the works (plural) of God would be displayed. What are the works of God that were to be displayed in this man?

It seems pretty obvious that one of those works is the physical healing of this man’s blindness. Not just anyone can spit in some dust, rub the mud on a guy’s eyes, tell him to go wash it in a pool, and restore his sight. Imagine being this guy! This amazing thing happens to you then all the religious leaders start tracking you down and drilling you about what happened to you and all you know is this: *“Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”*

As we learned about in Day 3, not only did Jesus open this man’s eyes allowing him to see the world around him, but Jesus opened the eyes of his heart to see the spiritual realities around him.

This is one of those works of God that were displayed in this man. His physical sight was only an example of his spiritual sight. This story ends with the Pharisees asking Jesus, “Are we also blind?” Here’s a group of people who knew all about the Bible, yet they didn’t see and understand that Jesus was the Messiah. Here’s a group of people who devoted themselves to following the Law so strictly, yet they didn’t see the depths of their own sin. Here’s a group of people who believed they could see and understand the will of God, but they couldn’t even see God when He was right in front of them.

The truth is, we are just like them. In our own perspective, we think and believe the same way. We need someone else to open the eyes of our hearts to help us see the real us, to help us see our need for salvation, to help us see the goodness and love of God who saves us from our sin!

12. Describe a time in your life when you so strongly believed you were right about something and doubled down on what you thought was right, only to find out you were wrong all along. How did it make you feel to realize that? What did you learn through that experience?

13. What should we do as a church to help those who don’t “see” that Jesus is the Savior they need?