

Small group discussion questions

John Chapter 9

Because Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, an encounter with Him can be either an enlightening experience, or a blinding experience. By the grace of God, may it prove to be an enlightening experience for each of us.

Comprehension

1. Why was the man in John 9:1 born blind?
2. How did Jesus restore the man's sight? When did the healing actually take effect?
3. Why did the Pharisees have a problem with that? Were they all in agreement?
4. The Pharisees initially want to know exactly what Jesus did to heal the blind man. Once the blind man identified Jesus as "a prophet," how did their line of questioning change?
5. When the Pharisees question the man's parents, they acknowledge that he was born blind, but say that they do not know how he regained his sight or "who opened his eyes." Why do they direct the Pharisees to ask their son instead of answering themselves?
6. When the Pharisees interview the man a second time, what assertion do they make about Jesus? (in 9:24b)
7. When being questioned a second time, the man does not change his testimony about how Jesus healed him. How do the Pharisees respond?
8. Does the man respond with the same fear that his parents exhibited toward the Pharisees? How is his response different?
9. How do the Pharisees respond to the man's assertions about Jesus in 9:30-33?
10. When Jesus heard that they cast the man out, he found him and asked if he believed in the Son of Man. The man asked Jesus, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him? Jesus responded, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." How does the man respond?

Interpretation

1. On the surface, this is a story about Jesus healing a man's physical blindness, but Jesus uses the physical healing to address spiritual blindness. What are some of the signs from the story that demonstrate that the Pharisees are spiritually blind?

2. Where do you see signs that the Pharisees are divided about Jesus?
3. What irony do you see by the Pharisees who ask Jesus, “Are we also blind?”
4. As the story unfolds, how do the man’s references to Jesus indicate that his faith is growing?
5. Verse 39 tells us: Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.

Application

1. The man’s parents were afraid to take a stand. The Pharisees themselves are divided about Jesus, but no one speaks out. Have you ever been afraid to take a stand?
2. Consider the man’s response to repeated questioning. What can we learn from him about how to respond to unbelievers?
3. What can we learn from the Pharisees?

Chapter 10:

Comprehension – Quick recap of what the scripture says.

Interpretation

What does all this sheep talk mean?? Who is the stranger? Who are the hired hands? Who are the other sheep?

Talk about John 10:10. What does this mean? Do you believe there really is a ‘thief’? Who does Jesus say he is? What is the full meaning of his claim?

Why did Jesus say in verse 34, is it not written in “your” law? That is interesting wording.

Why didn’t Jesus just flat out say he was the Messiah when they questioned him? Isn’t it interesting that Jesus is always able to “escape the grasp” of an angry, stone throwing mob? How does that keep happening??

Application

What do you see in your own life that “the thief” could use to hurt you or your family? What are some ways you can protect yourself?

Do you believe that Jesus is indeed the gatekeeper or do you believe there are many paths to heaven? What exactly does this scripture tell us and how *should* that impact our lives?

Do you believe that Jesus is who he says he is? Does Jesus leave any other options? What is your response to these claims? What does that truly mean to you? How should you apply your convictions in our society, specifically in a multi-cultural area like ours?

