

Title: Now I See

Big Idea: God's work may not bring you an easier life, but it is a better life.

10 Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" **11** 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." **12** Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." **13** They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

But discipleship & spiritual growth isn't always...

...a clean, cookie cutter program w/a scripted scheduled process.

1. Jesus meets us at our point of need.

14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. **15** 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." **16** 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.

2. Jesus brings division.

17 They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." **18** 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. **19** And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" **20** His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; **21** 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." **22** 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. **23** Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 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."

25 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."

26 Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" **27** 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?" **28** Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. **29** We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for this fellow*, we do not know where He is from."

3. Jesus is meant to reign over us.

Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this *man* to reign over us.'

30 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! **31** Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. **32** Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. **33** If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” **34** They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out.

Isaiah 35:3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *with* the recompense of God; He will come and save you.” 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Isaiah 42:6 “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house. 8 I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name; And My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images. 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

35 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?” **36** He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

39 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.” **40** Then *some* of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” **41** Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.

4. Jesus wants us all to see.

Revelation 3:17 Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

General Timeline Guide:

(Adjust as appropriate for your group's needs.)

5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.

45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.

5-10 minutes praying for each other

Discussion Questions

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time, but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. How or why might we treat conviction or humbling moments as punishments rather than opportunities for cleansing and growth?
3. The formerly blind man simply shared his testimony: 'I was blind; now I see.' How can sharing our before-and-after story be more powerful than having all the theological answers?
4. Why do you think some people, like the Pharisees, resist Jesus not because of lack of evidence but because they refuse to let Him reign over their lives?
5. Following Jesus brings division especially when truth and love are involved. When is division necessary, and how do we navigate it with grace?
6. How can pride or self-righteousness blind us spiritually? What might be an ointment we need?