

How does the truth that Jesus saw the blind man before the blind man could see Jesus challenge our understanding of who initiates our relationship with God?

In what ways might our pain or brokenness become a window through which others see God's grace, rather than something we need to hide or erase?

Why do you think obedience often comes before clarity in our walk with Jesus, and can you identify a time when you had to obey without fully understanding what God was doing?

What parts of your story do you tend to minimize or dismiss as not dramatic enough, and how might God want to use those very parts to reach someone else?

How does the Pharisees' inability to celebrate the miracle because of their commitment to tradition serve as a warning for us today about religious rigidity?

What does it reveal about God's character that Jesus went looking for the man after he was thrown out of the synagogue, and how does this apply to seasons of rejection in our own lives?

The formerly blind man's understanding of Jesus grew deeper each time he told his story. How has sharing your testimony with others helped clarify your own faith journey?

Why is the simple testimony 'I was blind but now I see' so powerful, and what would your one-sentence version of this testimony be?

What costs have you experienced or might you fear experiencing when it comes to openly sharing how Jesus has changed your life?

If you had 60 seconds to tell someone how Jesus changed your life, what would you say, and what is keeping you from sharing that story more often?

Small Group Guide: "This Is My Story" - John 9

Opening Prayer & Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Ice Breaker Question: If you had 60 seconds to tell someone about a life-changing moment you've experienced (not necessarily spiritual), what would you share?

Sermon Recap (5 minutes)

This week we explored John 9, where Jesus heals a man born blind. Unlike last week's story of the woman at the well whose shame was hidden, this man's brokenness was visible to everyone. Through his healing and testimony, we learn how to tell our own story of transformation: who we were before Jesus, our encounter with Him, and who we are now.

Key Verse: "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see." - John 9:25

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Being Seen by Jesus (15 minutes)

The sermon emphasized that Jesus saw the blind man before the man ever saw Jesus. When did you first sense that Jesus was pursuing you, even when you weren't looking for Him?

Read John 9:1-3. The disciples asked whose sin caused the blindness. How does Jesus' response challenge our tendency to assign blame when we or others are suffering?

What part of your life feels "visible" to others—a struggle or pain that you can't hide? How does it feel knowing that Jesus sees you in that place?

Part 2: Obedience Before Understanding (15 minutes)

Jesus used mud and spit, then told the man to wash in the Pool of Siloam. Why do you think Jesus sometimes asks us to obey before we fully understand what He's doing?

Share about a time when you had to obey God while "walking around with mud on your eyes"—when you couldn't see the full picture but had to trust anyway. What was that experience like?

The sermon said, "Obedience in the dark is still obedience." What area of your life right now requires this kind of faith?

Part 3: The Power of a Simple Story (15 minutes)

The healed man's testimony was simple: "I was blind but now I see." Why do you think we often feel our story isn't "good enough" or "dramatic enough" to share?

Notice how the man's understanding of Jesus grew throughout the chapter (from "the man called Jesus" to "a prophet" to "from God"). How has your understanding of who Jesus is deepened over time as you've walked with Him and shared your story?

Complete this sentence for yourself: "There was a time in my life when _____, then I met Jesus, and now _____."

Part 4: The Cost and the Comfort (10 minutes)

The healed man was thrown out of the synagogue, but Jesus came looking for him (v. 35). Have you ever experienced rejection or misunderstanding because of your faith? How did you experience Jesus' presence during that time?

The sermon mentioned that "not everyone celebrates when Jesus changes your life." How can we support each other when obedience to Jesus costs us relationships or comfort?

Key Takeaways

Jesus sees you in your brokenness before you ever see Him

Obedience often comes before clarity—trust God even when you can't see the full picture

Your story doesn't have to be dramatic to be powerful—if Jesus changed you, it matters

Telling your story helps clarify who Jesus is, both for you and for others

Jesus finds those who are cast out—you're never abandoned when you follow Him

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Write Your Story: Take 15 minutes to write out your testimony using the three-part framework:

Who I was before Jesus

My encounter with Jesus

Who I am now

Share Your Story: Tell one person this week (friend, family member, coworker, neighbor) about what Jesus has done in your life. It doesn't have to be perfect—just honest.

Post Your Story: Share your story on social media using #ThisIsMyStory. Keep it simple and authentic.

Practice Your Story: In your small group, pair up and practice telling your story in 60-90 seconds. Give each other feedback and encouragement.

Prayer Time (10 minutes)

Prayer Prompts:

Pray for boldness to share your story without apologizing or minimizing it

Pray for specific people in your life who are living in spiritual darkness

Pray for those in the group who are currently "walking with mud on their eyes"—obeying without full understanding

Pray for Easter opportunities to share the hope of Jesus

Group Prayer: Go around and have each person pray for the person on their right, asking God to use their story to bring someone into the light.

Looking Ahead

Prepare for Next Week:

Read the assigned scripture passage (if announced)

Think about how Easter might provide natural opportunities to share your story

Continue practicing your testimony

Easter Invitation: Consider who you might invite to Easter services. Your invitation + your story = a powerful combination!

Closing Thought

"Your story doesn't have to be flashy. It doesn't have to be dramatic. If Jesus has changed you, then your story matters."

You have a story worth telling. Don't wait until you know everything. Start with what you know: Jesus changed your life. That's enough.

This Is My Story: A 5-Day Devotional Journey

Day 1: Jesus Sees You First

Reading: John 9:1-7

Devotional: Before the blind man ever called out to Jesus, Jesus saw him. This truth should comfort every weary soul today: your encounter with God doesn't begin with your pursuit of Him, but with His pursuit of you. He saw you in your confusion, your rebellion, your loneliness, and your pain. You didn't have to clean yourself up or prove yourself worthy. Jesus meets us in our darkness, not after we've found the light. Today, stop striving to be seen and rest in this truth: the God of the universe already sees you exactly where you are, and He is moving toward you with compassion and purpose.

Reflection Question: Where in your life do you need to believe that Jesus sees you, even when you can't see Him?

Day 2: Obedience Before Clarity

Reading: John 9:6-12

Devotional: Jesus put mud on the blind man's eyes and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. The man couldn't see what Jesus was doing or why. He had to obey before he understood. Sometimes God calls us to take steps of faith when the path isn't clear, when our circumstances feel messy, when we're walking around with "mud on our eyes." Obedience in the dark is still obedience. It's still faith. You don't need to understand every detail of God's plan to trust Him with the next step. The washing—the breakthrough—comes after the obedience. Don't wait for perfect clarity. Trust the One who sees what you cannot.

Reflection Question: What is one area where God is calling you to obey even though you don't fully understand His plan?

Day 3: Your Story Doesn't Need to Be Perfect

Reading: John 9:13-25

Devotional: When questioned about his healing, the formerly blind man didn't offer theological arguments or polished explanations. He simply said, "One thing I know: I was blind but now I see." Your testimony doesn't need to be dramatic or eloquent. You don't need seminary training to share what Jesus has done for you. Many believers stay silent because they think they need to know everything first. But transformation speaks louder than information. Someone needs to hear your simple, honest story: "There was a time in my life when... then I met Jesus... and now..." That's enough. Your changed life is the most powerful apologetic you have. Don't wait until you have all the answers. Start with what you know.

Reflection Question: Can you describe your encounter with Jesus in one or two simple sentences?

Day 4: The Cost and Comfort of Following Jesus

Reading: John 9:26-35

Devotional: The healed man gained his sight but lost his place in the synagogue. Sometimes following Jesus costs us comfort, acceptance, or relationships. Not everyone will celebrate your transformation. Some will pull away when your faith becomes real. But notice this beautiful truth: "Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him..." You may be cast out by others, but you are never abandoned by Jesus. He comes looking for the rejected, the misunderstood, the lonely. When obedience costs you human approval, Jesus draws closer. He finds those who are left behind. You are not alone in your faithfulness. The One who changed you will never leave you.

Reflection Question: Have you experienced rejection because of your faith? How have you seen Jesus meet you in that place?

Day 5: From Blindness to Worship

Reading: John 9:35-41

Devotional: The man's journey ends where all testimonies should lead: worship. "Lord, I believe," he said, and he worshiped Jesus. Your story isn't ultimately about you—it's about pointing others to Jesus. The goal isn't just self-improvement or a better life; it's knowing and worshipping the One who saved you. This man went from being known only by his brokenness to being known by his encounter with Jesus. That's the legacy worth having. As you prepare to share your story, remember the destination: not just that people know you were helped, but that they meet Jesus. Your transformation is an invitation for others to worship. Tell your story, and let it lead people to the Light of the World.

Reflection Question: How can your story become an invitation for someone else to worship Jesus this week?

Closing Challenge: Take time this week to write out your story using this simple framework: "There was a time in my life when... then I met Jesus... and now..." Practice telling it in 60 seconds. Share it with at least one person before Easter. Your story matters. Tell it.