

John 9:1-41

CG Discussion Guide// Week of April 23, 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Icebreaker: What is one non-sinful act that you've done once and would never want to do again?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Pray for Harbor Network sister church: Four Oaks East, Tallahassee, FL (Pastor: Josh Hughes)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Vv. 1-7
 - What sticks out to you about the encounter between Jesus and the blind man?
 - What do you make of the disciples' question about the blind man? Have you found yourself in similar situations and asked questions?
 - What do you make of Jesus' teaching that infirmities and certain contexts of suffering can be canvasses to display the works of God?
 - Do you find that to be a struggle or a comfort? Does the end result of the blind man's condition help you understand this teaching?
- Vv. 8-34
 - What jumps out at you from this part of the story?
 - What do you think of the characters in this part of the passage, especially how they interact and dialogue with each other? What do you think of the formerly blind man and his quippy rejoinders?
 - Why do you think it was very difficult for many people to accept the obvious reality that the man was healed from congenital blindness? How does this story help us understand when we present people with the truth of what Jesus has done and they respond in many different ways?
- Vv. 35-41
 - If spiritual blindness exists as a barrier to seeing the truth of Jesus, how would that inform how you share the Gospel to people?
 - Can Christians still have spiritual "blind spots"? What's the difference between "blind spots" and total spiritual blindness?
 - If you are willing, please share a time when you personally were spiritually blind (either in general or in a specific area) and how Jesus opened your eyes to the truth (especially in the specific blind spots)?

Abide Time: John 9:1-41

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?

- Read the passage and let God speak to you in your reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?

 - What does it say about the world around you?

- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?

- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?

- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?

- How is God inviting you to live differently?

- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community – (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- April 30: Celebration/Baptism Sunday
- May 3: Members Meeting
- May 10: Redeemer Men
- May 14: Mothers' Day
- May 21: Redeemer-in-10

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.

SUMMER RHYTHMS 2023 (Off-weeks can be used for rest, hangouts, outings, outreach/service)

- **Week of April 30: CG Week**
- ***Week of May 7: Off Week***
- **Week of May 14: CG Week**
- ***Week of May 21: Off Week***
- **Week of May 28: CG Week**
- ***Week of June 4: Off Week***
- **Week of June 11: CG Week**
- ***Week of June 18: Off Week***
- **Week of June 25: CG Week**
- ***Week of July 2: Off Week***
- **Week of July 9: CG Week**
- ***Week of July 16: Off Week***
- **Week of July 23: CG Week**
- ***Week of July 30: Off Week***
- **Week of August 6: CG Week**
- ***Week of August 13: Off Week***
- **Week of 20 August: BACK TO NORMAL RHYTHMS!**