

Small Group Guide: Signs - The Blind Man Healed

Sermon Series: Signs (Gospel of John)

Scripture Focus: John 9:1-41

Big Idea: Jesus' message is more important than His miracles, and our testimonies can help others see Jesus.

OPENING PRAYER (5 minutes)

Begin by thanking God for the opportunity to gather and asking the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds to His truth.

ICEBREAKER (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you or someone you know misdiagnosed a problem (medical, car trouble, home repair, etc.). What happened when you finally discovered the real issue?

REVIEW THE MESSAGE (10 minutes)

Key Points:

- Jesus performed seven miraculous signs in John's Gospel to reveal that He is the Son of God
- The disciples (and religious leaders) had faulty assumptions about the cause of the man's blindness
- Birth defects and disabilities are not direct punishments from God, but signs we live in a fallen world
- All people, regardless of ability, are created in God's image
- Spiritual blindness is worse than physical blindness
- Our testimony should be simple: "I was _____, but then Jesus _____, and now I _____"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (30-40 minutes)

Understanding the Text

1. **Why did the disciples assume someone had sinned to cause the man's blindness?** What does this reveal about their understanding of suffering and disability?
2. **How did Jesus correct their faulty theology?** (See John 9:3) What does this teach us about God's purposes in suffering?
3. **Why do you think Jesus used mud and spit to heal the blind man?** What might this method teach us about how God chooses to work?

Personal Reflection

4. **Have you ever asked "Why them and not me?" or "Why me and not them?"** Share your experience. How does Jesus' response in this passage speak to those questions?
5. **The sermon stated: "Jesus doesn't need our help, but He is more than willing to use us to help others if we are willing to be shaped by Him."** What does it mean to be "shaped by Him"? Where do you see God shaping you right now?
6. **The blind man faced rejection from neighbors, religious leaders, and even his own parents after being healed.** Have you ever experienced rejection for following Jesus or sharing your faith? How did you respond?

Application

7. **Create your one-sentence testimony using this formula:** "I was _____, but then Jesus _____, and now I _____." Share with the group if comfortable.
8. **The challenge from the sermon was to think of five people you pass by every day and share your testimony with them.** Who are those five people in your life? What fears or obstacles keep you from sharing?
9. **The sermon emphasized that "spiritual blindness is worse than physical blindness."** What are signs of spiritual blindness in our culture today? In our own lives?
10. **The story of Abby demonstrated how God's work can be displayed even in severe limitations.** How does this challenge the world's definition of a "valuable" or "productive" life? How should this shape how we view and treat people with disabilities?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Write these down or share which one resonates most with you:

- Birth defects and suffering are not direct punishments from God—they're consequences of living in a fallen world
- All people are made in God's image and can display His glory, regardless of ability or limitation
- Our testimonies don't need to be complicated—simple is powerful
- Sharing our testimony should lead to the question: "Do you want to follow Jesus too?"
- Rejection shouldn't stop us from allowing God's work to be displayed in our lives
- We are all living in broken bodies with various "disabilities"—physical, emotional, or spiritual

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 minutes)

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

1. **Write out your testimony** using the "I was, but then Jesus, and now I" formula. Practice sharing it in 60 seconds or less.
2. **Identify your five people** and pray for them daily this week. Ask God for one opportunity to share your testimony with at least one of them.
3. **Examine your assumptions** about suffering, disability, or difficult circumstances. Are you making the same mistake as the disciples? Ask God to help you see people as He sees them.
4. **Reach out to someone** who may feel "passed by" (lonely, disabled, marginalized, rejected). Show them they are valued as image-bearers of God.
5. **Memorize John 20:31** - "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

PRAYER TIME (10-15 minutes)

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for courage to share testimonies with the five people God brings to mind
- Pray for those struggling with physical limitations or disabilities—that God's work would be displayed in their lives
- Pray for spiritual sight—that we would see Jesus clearly and see others as God sees them
- Pray for those who are spiritually blind—that they would encounter Jesus and believe

- Pray the prayer from the sermon: "Here I am, send me. Mold me and shape me."

Close with this prayer or similar:

"Father God, help us not to ask 'Why me?' but 'Why not me?' You are powerful and can do miraculous things. We feel useless at times, but today we pray: Here we are, send us. Mold us and shape us. Let us do Your will. Use our testimonies and our words to give others a testimony of Your glorious name. May we not be silent, but share and ask others the simple question: Do you want to follow Jesus? Amen."

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

- Share with the group (via text/email) one way you practiced sharing your testimony this week
- Read John 10-11 in preparation for the next study
- Continue praying for your five people