



Week Seven: John 9:1-38

“Why Don’t Some Believe?”

Study Guide for the week of
October 24, 2021

Read John 9:1-12. Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. In what way would being blind change your life?
2. What question did Jesus’ disciples ask Him about the blind man’s condition? ([9:2](#))
3. Why had this man been born blind? ([9:3](#))
4. How did the blind man answer his neighbors’ question? ([9:11](#))
5. In what way has God healed you?
6. In what ways are we spiritually blind?
7. Through what shortcoming in your life will you ask God to glorify Himself today?

Life Application Bible Notes

[9:1ff](#) In [chapter 9](#), we see four different reactions to Jesus. The neighbors revealed surprise and skepticism; the Pharisees showed disbelief and prejudice; the parents believed but kept quiet for fear of excommunication; and the healed man showed consistent, growing faith. Each reaction to Jesus allowed the man to reach a clearer understanding of the one who had healed him.

[9:2, 3](#) A common belief in Jewish culture was that calamity or suffering was the result of some great sin. But Christ used this man's suffering to teach about faith and to glorify God. We live in a fallen world where good behavior is not always rewarded and bad behavior not always punished. Therefore, innocent people sometimes suffer. If God took suffering away whenever we asked, we would follow him for comfort and convenience, not out of love and devotion. Regardless of the reasons for our suffering, Jesus has the power to help us deal with it. When you suffer from a disease, tragedy, or disability, try not to ask, Why did this happen to me? or What did I do wrong? Instead, ask God to give you strength for the trial and a clearer perspective on what is happening.

[9:6](#) When Jesus spit on the ground and made mud in order to repair the man's eyes, he was working with original materials. [Genesis 2:7](#) states that God formed Adam's body from the dust of the ground. Jesus was demonstrating a creator's awareness of the materials he first used to shape the human body.

[9:7](#) The pool of Siloam was built by Hezekiah. His workers constructed an underground tunnel from a spring outside the city walls to carry water into the city. Thus, the people could always get water without fear of being attacked. This was especially important during times of siege (see [2 Kings 20:20](#); [2 Chronicles 32:30](#)).

Read John 9:13-34. Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. Who do you know who has challenged "the establishment" or "the system"?
2. How did the blind man's parents answer the Pharisees' questions? ([9:19-21](#))
3. How did the blind man respond to the Pharisees? ([9:25](#))
4. What convinced the blind man that Jesus was from God? ([9:33](#))
5. What authority have you ever challenged?
6. In what way has Jesus upset the status quo in your life?
7. How would you challenge someone this week who disputed the authority of God?

Life Application Bible Notes - John 9:13-34

[9:13-17](#) While the Pharisees conducted investigations and debated about Jesus, people were being healed and lives were being changed. The Pharisees' skepticism was based not on insufficient evidence, but on jealousy of Jesus' popularity and his influence on the people.

[9:14-16](#) The Jewish Sabbath, Saturday, was the weekly holy day of rest. The Pharisees had made a long list of specific dos and don'ts regarding the Sabbath. Kneading the mud and healing the man were considered work and therefore were forbidden. Jesus may have purposely made the clay in order to emphasize his teaching about the Sabbath—that it is right to care for others' needs even if it involves working on a day of rest.

[9:25](#) By now the man who had been blind had heard the same questions over and over. He did not know how or why he was healed, but he knew that his life had been miraculously changed and he was not afraid to tell the truth. You don't need to know all the answers in order to share Christ with others. It is important to tell them how he has changed your life. Then trust that God will use your words to help others believe in him, too.

[9:28, 34](#) The man's new faith was severely tested by some of the authorities. He was cursed and evicted from the synagogue. Persecution may come when you follow Jesus. You may lose friends; you may even lose your life. But no one can ever take away the eternal life that Jesus gives you.

Read John 9:35-38. Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. What person outside your family has had the biggest impact on your life?
2. What did Jesus ask the man who had been blind? ([9:35](#))
3. Who did Jesus claim to be? ([9:37](#))
4. What did the blind man do when Jesus told him who He was? ([9:38](#))
5. In what circumstances do you usually worship Jesus?
6. In what way are people today spiritually blind?
7. For what person who is spiritually blind will you pray that God would open his or her eyes?

Life Application Bible Notes - John 9:35-41

9:38 This man gained not only physical sight but also spiritual sight as he recognized Jesus first as a prophet ([9:17](#)), then as his Lord. When you turn to Christ, you begin to see him differently. The longer you walk with him, the better you will understand who he is. Peter tells us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" ([2 Peter 3:18](#)). If you want to know more about Jesus, keep trusting him in every area of life.

9:40, 41 The Pharisees were shocked that Jesus thought they were spiritually blind. Jesus countered by saying that it was only blindness (stubbornness and stupidity) that could excuse their behavior. To those who remained open and recognized how sin had truly blinded them from knowing the truth, he gave spiritual understanding and insight. But he rejected those who had become complacent, self-satisfied, and blind.

Going deeper: More questions to consider this week (questions from the sermon at Hope on 10/24/21):

1. Have you ever doubted the Lord, like the Pharisees did in this story, because you focused on what was explainable instead of what was undeniable?
2. Reflect this week on where the Lord shows you His Grace and His Mercy and what difference it makes for you?
3. Why do you think Jesus delayed going to the man he healed until after he was rejected by the Pharisees? What lesson have you learned in a tough situation where it seemed that Jesus delayed in helping you?

Gospel of John Study Guide questions and notes are from



John 9:35-41 (NIV)

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."