

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

UNIT 27

THE TRUTH OF HIS KINGDOM



MARK; LUKE; JOHN



MEMORY VERSES

“Today salvation has come to this house,”
Jesus told him, “because he too is a son
of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come
to seek and to save the lost.”

—Luke 19:9-10



BLIND TO SEEING

CORE PASSAGE: JOHN 9:24-27,35-41

CONTEXT

John's Gospel contains seven "I am" statements in which Jesus assumes the divine name of God found in Exodus 3:14. The second of these appears in John 8:12 and 9:5, where Jesus proclaimed, "I am the light of the world." What comes next is a demonstration of His light breaking into the darkness. Christ's light healed and saved a man born blind while also revealing the blindness of those who refused Him. The conflict between Jesus and the religious authorities intensified as evidence of Jesus's divinity and messiahship grew.

KEY CONCEPT

Jesus opens people's eyes to the fact that He is the Messiah, but we can choose to believe or not.

As you examine John 9:24-27,35-41:

- Contemplate that Jesus makes blind people see, both literally and metaphorically.
- Recognize that the Pharisees were able to see with their physical eyes but still chose to sin in their spiritual blindness by not believing who Jesus was.



TIMELINE

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (John 6:1-15)

SESSION STUDY: Jesus Heals a Blind Man (John 9:1-41)

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead (John 11:1-44)

Jesus Walks on Water (John 6:16-21)

Jesus Encounters Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (John 12:12-19)

Daily Readings

☐ **Day 1:** John 7:1-52

☐ **Day 4:** John 9:24-41

☐ **Day 2:** John 8:12-59

☐ **Day 5:** John 10:1-42

☐ **Day 3:** John 9:1-23

☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 82



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

JOHN 9:24-27

JESUS BRINGS LIGHT TO THOSE IN DARKNESS.

Circle the statement that gives glory to God.

24 So a second time they summoned the man who had been blind and told him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” **25** He answered, “Whether or not he’s a sinner, I don’t know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!” **26** Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” **27** “I already told you,” he said, “and you didn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it again? You don’t want to become his disciples too, do you?”

VOICES FROM THE CHURCH

“Believers don’t need to know all the answers before they can share Christ with others. All they must know is how Jesus changed their lives. . . . We should tell people what Jesus did for us, and trust God to help our words draw others to him.”¹

—Bruce B. Barton

Key Concept: Jesus opens people's eyes to the fact that He is the Messiah, but we can choose to believe or not.

The story of the man born blind starts in verse 1, and it is a story about responding to Jesus. The Pharisees' searching question, "What did he do to you?" (v. 26), lies at the heart of every conversion story. When God saves a person, He changes them at the deepest level of their being, transferring them from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of His Son (Colossians 1:13). Such life change becomes obvious, like a man born blind who can suddenly see, and it demands an explanation.

John's Gospel offered that explanation not only to the man born blind but to the world blinded by sin that regains its spiritual sight in Christ. Before healing the man, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). As the light of Christ shines in the darkness, there are two possible responses: go toward the light or flee from exposure. The gospel never leaves room for ambiguity. There are no "neutral" reactions to it.

Light is an exposing element. It reveals what is truly there. In the darkness, we can only guess what's there. When Jesus came as "the light of the world" (John 9:5), the natural response was to step into His light and trust Him as Savior. But not all responses were so favorable. Some, like many Pharisees and religious leaders, refused to see what the light exposed.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus opens people's eyes to His messiahship, but they can choose to believe in Him or not. Those who recognize their sin and need for a Savior will believe; the hard-hearted will not.

How have you experienced the light of Christ exposing the darkness in your own heart?

When commanded to "give glory to God" (v. 24), the healed man did just that, proclaiming what Jesus had done for him. He had been blind, and now he could see, and Jesus was the cause. He could tell the Pharisees his story again—and no doubt he would tell it the rest of his life—but he would not come up with a narrative that didn't involve Jesus opening his eyes. There was no other explanation for him, and there isn't for any Christian. The only question left is this: Do you want to become His disciples too?

If you were asked, "What did Jesus do to you?" how would you answer?

PERSONAL PREPARATION

JOHN 9:35-41

JESUS CAME TO JUDGE THOSE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO SEE THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH.

Circle the words referring to sight in this passage.

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and when he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” **36** “Who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?” he asked. **37** Jesus answered, “You have seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” **38** “I believe, Lord!” he said, and he worshiped him. **39** Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind.” **40** Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things and asked him, “We aren’t blind too, are we?” **41** “If you were blind,” Jesus told them, “you wouldn’t have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

NEW IDENTITY OF THE BELIEVER: When a person places faith in Christ, that person undergoes a fundamental change of identity. He or she goes from being an enemy under God’s wrath (Ephesians 2:1-3) to being welcomed into God’s family as a beloved child (Ephesians 2:19). The believer in Christ is declared righteous on account of Christ’s perfect life and substitutionary death and resurrection. No longer is the person a slave to sin, defined by past failures or present struggles. The person has been delivered from the realm of darkness and now belongs to the kingdom of light (Colossians 1:13). Anyone who is in Christ is a “new creation” in whom the old, sinful self is passed away and the new, redeemed self is alive and progressing, becoming more and more like Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).



The Gospels present Jesus as a man who always went to the outcasts. Verse 34 tells us the Pharisees, unhappy with the response to their inquiry, cast out the once-blind-now-sighted man from the synagogue. When Jesus heard the news, He went and found the man. Imagine the emotional rollercoaster! The man experienced a miracle that resulted in his excommunication. One kind of suffering was relieved only to be cast into another kind. Was his physical sight now a spiritual problem? No, and Jesus wanted him to know that.

Jesus found the man and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” (v. 35). Jesus often used the phrase “the Son of Man” to refer to Himself as the One who reveals God to man.² Seeing Jesus, the man now saw his God. His response was immediate and profound—“I believe, Lord!” (v. 38). He then worshiped Jesus, the only right response to the revelation of the Messiah. The man’s physical blindness had already been healed, and to the man’s delight, Jesus healed his spiritual blindness too.

How does Jesus’s miracle and pursuit of the man relate to our gospel mission as believers in Christ?

While the man worshiped Jesus, some Pharisees stood in judgment. Yet in the end, it is not their judgment that matters—it is Jesus’s. In verse 39, Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment.” By that He meant He came to show the truth of things, to which some will respond with faith and worship while others respond with rejection.

Some are blind and know it, and some are blind but don’t know it. What a warning this is to all who read John 9. We can have the gift of physical sight and not see our spiritual need, and we can be physically blind and see Jesus clearly. This is why Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:18-19 that “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.”

What do we need to “see” in order to be saved by faith?



SEEING JESUS

Read John 9:1-41. Write in the appropriate space how the man born blind and the Pharisees identified Jesus.

HOW THE MAN BORN BLIND SAW JESUS	HOW THE PHARISEES SAW JESUS
(v. 11)	(vv. 16,24)
(v. 17)	(v. 28)
(vv. 30-31)	(vv. 39-41)
(vv. 35-38)	

What is our role as believers in Christ to help others see, know, and believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God?

Key Concept: Jesus opens people's eyes to the fact that He is the Messiah, but we can choose to believe or not.



HEAD

What are your sources of authority for your beliefs about Jesus?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

✕ ————— ✕
Read Psalm 82. Pray along with the psalmist that God would rise up and reveal His Son to a world in darkness. Pray for those in your life who do not yet believe in Jesus. Pray that God would open the eyes of their hearts to trust Him.



HEART

How does Jesus's pursuit of the man change the way you see the heart of Christ for you?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

Who will you pursue with the gospel of Jesus or follow up to see if they need more understanding?

