

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

John 9

Ice-breaker: If you could go back in time, what period of history would you want to go and see and experience?

Ice-breaker: What is an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?

DISCUSSION 1: God's Glory in Suffering

1. What does the disciple's question in John 9:2 reveal about their understanding of suffering? What are some wrong views of suffering you've encountered throughout your life?
2. How might our suffering, weakness, and trials be used to display the works of God? (John 9:3)
3. How do we allow God to use hard things for His glory and our good? What truths about God's character from this passage and others do we need to remember when we are suffering?
4. Discuss as a group, the practical ways you can care for someone who is suffering. What are some things to avoid and some things to remember before speaking to someone suffering?

DISCUSSION 2: Fear, Evangelism and Unbelief

1. How did the parents of the blind man respond to questions from the Jewish leaders? What does their response say about their understanding of Jesus?
2. How does fear of man undermine our witness to Jesus? How do you fight the fear of man in your own life? What truths of Scripture help combat the temptation to please God rather than men?
3. The man tells his story and summarizes it in 9:25 by saying, "I was blind, now I see." How can we use our testimony—both how we came to Christ but also how God is at work now—to share personal stories of God's work in our life? What are small ways you might more regularly communicate to others what God is doing, why you're thankful to Him, or what He's teaching you?
4. What has God done in your life that echo this man's sentiment: "I was blind, now I see." Where have you experienced his forgiveness, healing, restoration, change, strength, freedom, or power.
5. What do you think Jesus means when he says in v.39, "*For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind*"?
6. How does the Jewish leader's response to this miracle and Jesus show that they think they see but are spiritually blind? What are ways can people who have been around the Bible and church a long time miss God's glory? How can we guard our own hearts from spiritual blindness?
7. Application: Take some time in your group to pray and ask the Light of the World to shine his light into our hearts and to make visible hidden sin and to illuminate our eyes to see his glory.