**1. Motivate**

When have you had a problem with your vision?

* itchy, swollen eye lids during allergy season
* adjusting to contact lenses
* when the doctor dilates your eyes
* the two weeks between cataract surgeries (right eye, then left)
* when your arms aren’t long enough 😉
* when you got poked in the eye in sports
* got pink eye from the kids

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_gnrnczls> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/htmjh259>

**2. Transition**

These are all physical eye problems.

* Today we study how Jesus addressed problems with spiritual eyesight
* A man testifies, “Jesus led me increasingly to see who He is.”

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Jesus Brings Glory to God

Listen for a theology question and answer.

John 9:1-7 (NIV) As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

What theological debate did the man’s presence generate among the disciples?

* saw a man known to be blind from birth
* some people declared sickness was the result of sins committed
* so … is a person blind from birth because he sinned (pre-natal sin)
* or was it punishment for sin of the parents

How did Jesus answer their inquiry?

* it wasn’t pre-natal sin (not a logical possibility)
* it wasn’t the parents
* Jesus said it happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life

So … did *God* cause the blindness so Jesus could perform the miracle?

Consider this answer to the accusation.

* Consider verses 3 and 4 together
* Interpret it to have a period after Jesus answer that neither the man nor his parents had sinned – the end of the sentence
* The last half of verse 3 is the first part of the sentence which continues into verse 4
* Then it would read, “But that the works of God should be made manifest in him, we must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day: the night comes when no man can work.”
* No reason is given for the cause of the blindness

What principle does it teach us about suffering?

* whatever the reason of the suffering …
* It will be an opportunity for God to accomplish good things
* He can display His power, authority, and love for people

Who does Jesus declare Himself to be and what is the significance of the statement?

* “I am the light of the world.”
* the world is dark with sin
* Jesus’ life and ministry enlightens us concerning our spiritual needs
* He reveals to us God’s love
* He provides the solution to our sin problem
* He enables us to see, understand, and accept God’s Truth

What unusual method did Jesus use to bring about the healing?

* spitting in the dirt, making a mud “ointment”
* sends the man to a local spring to wash it off

On what basis was the man given his sight; saliva, dirt, mud, water, or something more?

* the man demonstrated his faith in Jesus’ words and actions
* he did what Jesus told him to do
* he believed that it would work and heal his eyes
* similar to when Elisha told Naaman to dip himself 7 times in the Jordan to be cured of leprosy

How can difficulties bring glory to God?

* we are reminded of, enlightened to the power and authority of God
* we place our trust in His power to take care of the difficulty
* we see God’s power at work
* we praise and thank Him for what He has done
* we worship Him for Who He is

3.2 God Is at Work through Jesus

Listen for how God works through Jesus.

John 9:32-33 (NIV) Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

Note who is speaking in these verses.

* It is said in the context of the (former) blind man arguing with the religious leaders.
* They cannot admit Jesus is from God.
* They want the man to declare that Jesus was sinful for (again) healing on the Sabbath.
* He responds that their accusation makes no sense.
* He says that if Jesus were evil, He would not be able to do these kinds of miracles.

What are some obstacles that prevent people from recognizing God’s work today?

* go with the science
* lack of faith
* we see a rational explanation for what is considered God’s working
* even believers often attribute God’s intervention in our lives as “good luck” or “fortunate”
* we are “programmed” to look for, to assume scientific or humanistic cause and effect
* actually Christians saved out of spirit worship are more ready to attribute a miracle to God

Why are we sometimes hesitant to ask God for things only He can do?

* we could be embarrassed if we declare we are trusting God and He doesn’t answer like we think He should
* God is too busy with big stuff (war, global climate change,
world politics, famine, blizzards, hurricanes, earthquakes …) These

* my problem is too small for God’s attention are lies from Satan
* my problem is too big for God – not even He can solve this mess

The religious leaders were upset because Jesus did things they thought would threaten their position. How do people respond when the status quo is disturbed?

* don’t want to hear of it, try to suppress the very idea
* things are good the way they are
* the unknown is considered “dangerous”
* we’ll lose our following, our authority in religious affairs

In what way does Jesus sometimes upset the status quo in our lives?

* blindsided by an illness
* challenged to trust Him in a new situation
* shows us things in our lives that should be done away with
* shows us a direction He wants your life to take – what we should be doing or not doing
* nudges us toward a new direction of ministry

3.3 Jesus Reveals Truth about Himself

Listen for Jesus’ follow up encounter.

John 9:35-38 (NIV) 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.

What act of Jesus indicates His ongoing compassion for the man even beyond the act of healing?

* followed up on the problems the man was having
* heard of the hassle he was getting
* revealed the true source of the power, the One who had healed him
* spoke to the issue of *spiritual* sight
* completed the miracle of changing the man’s life

With what great truth did Jesus confront the man?

* Jesus was/is the Messiah
* He can heal physically *and* spiritually
* now the man experienced both the power of God and His love

What should cause us to worship Jesus … to be in awe of Him … to declare His worthiness?

* who Jesus is – Savior, Healer, Provider, Good Shepherd
* God’s beautiful creation
* God’s direction of History – direction for our own personal lives
* the promise of God’s culmination of history
* answers to prayer
* amazing provision

What practices in your life can lead you to know more and more about Jesus; thus, helping you know more of His love, grace, and truth?

* communicating with God – reading His Word, speaking to Him in prayer
* involvement in the work of God’s Kingdom
* participating in the Great Commission
* trusting God for situations where you need Him to work

The highest response to what the Lord has made known is worship—

* Confessing His Lordship,
* Professing our faith in Him,
* With humility, giving Him praise, honor, and glory
* All because He is worthy.

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

See.

Determine to read through the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

As you read, take note of any insights you discover about who Jesus is and how He desires to work in your life.

Pray.

Pray for God to open your eyes and heart.

Life change happens when Jesus is at work in us and around us.

Ask God to give you eyes to see the people around you who are in need.

May God help us see people the way He sees them.

Help.

Jesus met a physical need and then used it as a springboard to discuss a spiritual need.

Find someone this week who has a need you can help with.

After serving the person, use the opportunity to talk about Jesus



 Double Puzzle



Our decoding crew is playing games with us. After they decoded the message from our embassy in Jomautish, they created a puzzle. Our office doesn’t have time for this. Could you help us out? The jumbled clue words are found in John 9:1-7,32-33,35-38 (NIV). Once you get them sorted out, use the numbers to fill in the blanks of the message. When you figure out the message, pass it along to your eye doctor. Help and other Fun Family activities are available at <https://tinyurl.com/htmjh259>