



# Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: John 9:1-7; 35-41*

**Bible Reading:** John 9:1-7; 35-41

### I. Jesus, the Disciples, & the Man (9:1-7)

**1** As he was passing by, [Jesus] 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,” Jesus answered. “This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him. **4** We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

**6** After he said these things he spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. **7** “Go,” he told him, “Wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he left, washed, and came back seeing...

### II. Jesus & the ‘man-born-blind’ (9:35-38)

**34** “You were born entirely in sin,” [the Pharisees told the man], “and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out.

**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.

### III. Jesus & the Pharisees (9:39-41)

**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. (John 9:1-7; 35-41 CSB)

#### SUMMARY:

In John 9 Jesus encounters a man blind from birth. His disciples ask the age-old question—‘who sinned?’ Jesus transcends their simplistic view, seizing the opportunity for God’s work. This underscores a nuanced truth: while sin correlates with suffering, it lacks a consistent causal connection.

Jesus heals by unconventional means: forming a paste from clay and saliva to anoint his eyes, he instructs the man to wash in the pool of Siloam. He obeys in faith and returns seeing. This isn’t ancient folk-medicine, or mystical practice; rather, it shows Jesus shares the divine identity of the Creator. Its not merely a restoration of sight; its a remarkable act of new creation—a foretaste of the coming kingdom when the blind will see, the lame leap, etc.

However, gaining physical sight is only the beginning. Under relentless questioning from skeptical Pharisees, the formerly-blind- man gains spiritual insight regarding Jesus, culminating in recognizing him as the ‘Son of Man’ and offering his worship.

In stark contrast, the Pharisees, trapped in their disbelief, plummet into spiritual darkness. Their refusal to embrace the truth about Jesus blinds them further. Ironically, the sin of unbelief causes their spiritual blindness. This illustrates that possessing clear physical sight—20/20 vision—is insufficient. We all need enhanced spiritual insight into Jesus’ Person and Work.

#### QUESTIONS:

- Let’s compare our attitude to that displayed by the disciples in Jn. 9:2. Concerning this N. T. Wright says: “Encountering this man, the disciples ask: ‘Who sinned?’ ...This question is a deeply instinctive one: when something goes wrong, we want to know who to blame. For e.g., in a car accident: was it a drunk driver? were they wearing seat belts? Or if someone has lung cancer: were they a smoker?” Can you relate to this? Have you ever responded in this manner? Discuss.
- The Greek text of John 9:3-4a can be rendered in 2 different ways (a. & b. – below)
  - “Neither this man nor his parents sinned...; *This* [blindness came about] so that God’s works might be displayed in him.”
  - “Neither this man nor his parents sinned. *But so that* God’s work might be displayed in him, we must do the work of him who sent me while it is still day.” (9:3-4a)
    - What are the implications of these alternative translations on God’s role (sovereignty) in the man’s blindness?
    - What are the implications of these alternative translations on Jesus’ role (his actions) affecting the man?
- John 9:6-7 describe the unique procedure Jesus used to heal the man;a. Was Jesus employing ancient folk-medicine? Was he using a magical/mystical process, or what?

- b. The Greek word “mud” here, is also translated “clay” in Isaiah 64:8 & Rom. 9:21; how does this help us grasp the significance of Jesus’ action here?
4. Commentators say, “*Jesus is not restoring some lost ability*” & “the story concerns *not a restoration but a new creation.*” What is the basis in the text for these statements? What is the significance of “new creation” vs. “restoration”?
5. After Jesus’ unique procedure (9:6), he told the man: “Go...Wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he left, washed, & came back seeing...” What implications can we draw from Jesus’ command? How does this apply to us?
6. Dorothy Lee: “The *man progresses from blindness to sight while the Pharisees move in the opposite direction.*” Discuss.