

# Believe

JOHN

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## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: John 9:8-38*

<sup>8</sup> His neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit begging?” <sup>9</sup> Some said, “He’s the one.” Others were saying, “No, but he looks like him.” He kept saying, “I’m the one.” <sup>10</sup> So they asked him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So when I went and washed I received my sight.” <sup>12</sup> “Where is he?” they asked. “I don’t know,” he said.

<sup>13</sup> They brought the man who used to be blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup> The day that Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees asked him again how he received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” he told them. “I washed and I can see.” <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he doesn’t keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a sinful man perform such signs?” ... <sup>17</sup> Again they asked the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?” “He’s a prophet,” he said. <sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe this about him—that he was blind and received sight—until they summoned the parents of the one who had received his sight. <sup>19</sup> They asked them, “Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup> “We know this is our son and that he was born blind,” his parents answered. <sup>21</sup> “But we don’t know how he now sees, and we don’t know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he’s of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said these things because they were afraid of the Jews, since the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed him as the Messiah, he would be banned from the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> This is why his parents said, “He’s of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> 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.” <sup>25</sup> 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!” <sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup> “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?” <sup>28</sup> They ridiculed him: “You’re that man’s disciple, but we’re Moses’s disciples.” <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses. But this man—we don’t know where he’s from.” <sup>30</sup> “This is an amazing thing!” the man told them. “You don’t know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes.” <sup>31</sup> We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does his will, he listens to him. <sup>32</sup> Throughout history no one has ever heard of someone opening the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he wouldn’t be able to do anything.” <sup>34</sup> “You were born entirely in sin,” they replied, “and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and when he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup> “Who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?” he asked. <sup>37</sup> Jesus answered, “You have seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” <sup>38</sup> “I believe, Lord!” he said, and he worshiped him.

### **Sermon Summary:**

After the man who was born blind gained his sight, he was questioned first by his neighbours and then taken to the Pharisees where he was questioned and challenged again. What is striking in this narrative is that the man becomes increasingly bold as he speaks about his experience and especially about who Jesus is. The more he speaks the clearer he becomes. He begins by calling Jesus a man and eventually tells the Pharisees that Jesus must be from God if he can do such a sign. Jesus eventually finds him and he believes that Jesus is the Son of Man and he worships him.

This man’s experience illustrates a few things. First, our gaining spiritual sight is not only a gift but also often comes through trials and possible challenges from unbelievers. These challenges force us to dig deeper in our understanding of Jesus. Second, the more we speak the clearer our spiritual sight becomes. It also indicates that at first, we may not be that clear but we should speak anyway. Finally, today Jesus is not present with us and so like this man, we are Jesus spokespersons. This man’s boldness should be a pattern for us.

### **Discussion:**

1. What points of objection do the Pharisees raise in their denial of the man’s healing and their rejection of his testimony?
2. What points of objection do the Pharisees raise in their denial of Jesus’ role as healer, miracle-worker, and light-bringer?
3. What have the Pharisees ‘got wrong’ in their objections/denials?
4. What qualities does the man-born-blind display in the controversies that follow his healing?
5. Why do you think Jesus abandoned this man when he was being interrogated.
6. Share your experiences of your faith being strengthened through suffering and opposition.
7. What might be some ways to have your faith strengthened instead of weakened when facing trials and/or opposition?

**End with Prayer:**

- Pray for each other's advancement in faith.