



Sermon Discussion Questions

GIFT: Jesus Through John

John 9: The Giver of God Stories

INTRODUCE IT

In this series, we are exploring the concept of God's greatest gift to us. When He came to earth as Jesus Christ and lived among us, God made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might know Him. But what does He want us to know about who He is and what life with Jesus offers us? By looking at different events in the Gospel of John, we seek to learn more about the nature of God's love for us and the incredible Gift we have been given.

To start this week's discussion, talk about some of the God stories that you heard from the weekend message. What stood out to you about them? What resonated with you from their stories?

STUDY THE PASSAGE

Read John 9:1-41

Based on their response in verse 2, how do the disciples view the relation between sickness and sin?

What does Jesus say about the issue?

What do you feel that our attitude is today about the relation between sin and sickness?

In verse 5, Jesus claims to be the light of the world. In what sense does the physical healing of the blind man confirm Jesus' spiritual claim?

Why do the Pharisees first object to the miracle? What do they continue to do throughout the story?

Starting in verse 18, "the Pharisees" becomes "the Jews". Why do you think John chooses to broaden the title of the people who are rejecting the miracle that has taken place?

In verses 24 and 25, the authorities insist that the man 'give glory to God', i.e., confess that He is lying, admit that the authorities are right, and that Jesus is a sinner. The formerly blind man obliges: he gives glory to God—not by denial, but by fearlessly reiterating the truth that he knows and has experienced. Compare this to Isaiah 29: 13-14, 18-19

Isaiah 29:13-14, 18-19 13 The Lord said: Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote; 14 so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing. The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.... 18 On that day the deaf shall hear the words of

a scroll, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. 19 The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the most needy people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

How is this prophecy in Isaiah being fulfilled through the response to this miracle?

What are some ways that we today can exhibit the Pharisees' attitude toward a marvelous work of God's grace or power?

Why did Jesus seek out the healed man a second time?

Through what weakness, failed relationship or disability in your life could God reveal his glory?

USE IT

Sometimes in our God story, God's hand is evident immediately. Other times, we only see how God worked when we look back to a situation in our past. Do you have a God story where you didn't recognize it at the time, but now see clearly that God was at work? Would you be willing to share it with the group? It might be the story of how God brought you to believe in Him or it might be something miraculous. Sharing our story within our group in a safe environment can give us the confidence to share our gift boldly as a witness to our friends who don't know Jesus.