

Week # 4
“Just Give Me Jesus” Series
Cedar Grove Church – March 6, 2016
Leaders Guide

“A Blind Man Believing”
John 9 (*The Voice*)
Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh



GROUP DISCUSSION:

(Focus on the questions you feel might be most helpful for your group. You probably will not be able to get through all of them. Please change or add questions that better fit your group.

NOTE: Today's text (John 9) is from *The Voice* translation and is printed on a separate sheet which can also be downloaded from the website).

1. Describe the blind man's situation as you see it. Try to put yourself in his shoes and imagine what his life must have looked like? How he made a living? What hope he had for the future?
 - Encourage use of imagination – describe feelings, put themselves into his setting.
2. Has there been a time in your life when you felt like a blind person? Describe the circumstances and what that must have felt like.
3. The Pharisee and Jewish understanding of the day was that physical deformities, sickness, etc. was the result of someone's sin. It was a punishment for this. Can that be true? Do you know of a case where you've felt this way about someone's physical or other challenge? How do you react to the response Jesus gave? Was Jesus right?
 - There are some instances where people have suffered due to other's sins, e.g. person paralyzed when hit by a drunk driver, etc. However, sickness, deformity, etc. is not a direct cause of someone's sin. Here, it was to bring glory to God! He is sovereign.
4. The Pharisees were on the attack against Jesus. List several reasons you think of as to why they were so upset with him. Why were they so disturbed about this healing taking place on the Sabbath day?
 - Various possible answers: He threatened their power, place in society, etc.
 - He was not the Messiah they had imagined and were looking for (a political leader that would put them into the top political power position.
 - His attacks on their hardness of heart, etc. were taken personally & angered them.
 - The designated themselves as the authority of what could and could be done on the Sabbath. Who did this guy think he was?!

5. Do the Pharisees and religious leaders upset you? If yes, explain why. If not, why not?
6. Have you ever observed the attitude of the Pharisees in our day? If so, where and how did it show up?
7. As the healed blind man was questioned and re-questioned, his frustration increased and finally he exclaimed, *“I only know one thing: I was blind, and now I see.”* Later as Jesus pressed him he confessed, *“Lord, I do believe. The man bowed low to worship Jesus.”* Have you come to faith in Jesus through something he has done for you? Tell your group about it.
8. At the end of Sunday’s message we were given “an eye exam.” We were challenged to exam our level of LOVE. Who or when do you find it the hardest to love?
9. We also face the challenge of CULTURE. What cultural changes around you make you the most uncomfortable? How do you think we are to apply Jesus’ love to those?
10. We all face the challenge of CHANGE. What have been the greatest changes in your life recently that you find the most upsetting? How do you think Jesus may want to help you cope with those?
11. Do you have a final observation or comment you would like to make about this John 9 story of the believing blind man? Or maybe a question you want to ask? Please share this with others.

PRAYER:

Make time to share needs and close in prayer – also praying about any needs that may have been shared in the course of discussion. Also give thanks for ways that were shared in which God may have touched and transformed members of your group.

It may be an idea this week to divide the group up into smaller groups, e.g. men in one, women in another, or in 2’s and 3’s, to allow for more sharing and praying. Seek the Lord’s leadership for this.