

# THIS IS LIFE

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
THE BOOK OF JOHN

## Week 9 – John chapter 9

## Jesus Brings Sight to the Blind

This is the sixth of the seven *sign miracles* of Jesus—miracles that John has recorded so that we may believe in Jesus and have life in His name. (See John 20:30-31) This account is a dramatic illustration of a man's progress from spiritual blindness to spiritual sight.

1. **Read John 9:1-12**      *The sixth sign: Jesus gives sight to a man born blind*
  - a. Jesus and His disciples encountered a man who had been blind from birth. What mistaken view of suffering was expressed by Jesus' disciples? (9:2)
  - b. What is the explanation that Jesus gives for this man's blindness? (9:3)
  - c. How did Jesus heal this blind man? (9:6-7)
  - d. What did the blind man know about the man who had healed him? (9:11-12)
  
2. **Read John 9:13-23**      *The Pharisees are groping in the dark*
  - a. What were the mixed reactions of the Pharisees to the news of this miraculous healing? (9:16)
  - b. As the Pharisees discussed this matter, the healed man demonstrated that his own insight into Jesus had deepened. What had the healed man decided about Jesus? (9:17)
  - c. What was the testimony of the blind man's parents about his healing? (9:20-21)
  - d. Why were his parents so guarded in their response to the Pharisees? (9:22)

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The prospect of being put out of the synagogue was a serious threat. If a family were to be put out of the synagogue, it would mean complete social ostracism. The family would be shunned by neighbors and even relatives. It would be a total upheaval of life.

### 3. Read John 9:24-34

#### *The Jews choose blindness over sight*

- a. What is the argument the Pharisees use in their second interrogation of the healed man? (John 9:24,28-29)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What argument does this uneducated man—this former beggar—use against the logic of the Pharisees? (John 9:25,30-33)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. How has the blind man's faith progressed? What does he now believe about Jesus? (John 9:33)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. What was the response of the Pharisees? (John 9:34)

➤ *For encouraging others:*

Have you had a personal experience of Christ's love in your life? Have you had a personal experience that strengthened your faith and your confidence in Him? Please share your personal experience if you feel comfortable doing so.

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## 4. Read John 9:35-38.

*The blind man receives spiritual sight...and life!*

The man born blind had never laid eyes on Jesus. The man knew Jesus' name, and he had received Jesus' healing. He believed that Jesus must be from God, but his faith was not yet complete. The man had courageously refused to discredit Jesus' work in his life, and as a result, he had now been put out of the synagogue. At this low point in his life, ***Jesus came to him.***

a. How did Jesus offer hope to this man? (John 9:35,37)

b. What aspects of saving faith do you see in the man's response? (John 9:38)

c. Describe this man's progress from spiritual blindness to spiritual sight:

i. From John 9:1-5

ii. From John 9:6-7

iii. From John 9:11-12

iv. From John 9:17

v. From John 9:30-33

vi. From John 9:37-38

➤ *For deeper thought:*

How do the following passages deepen your understanding of Jesus as the Son of Man?

- John 1:51

- John 3:13-14

- John 5:25-27

d. *For personal reflection:* Consider the highlights of your own spiritual journey. Have there been times in your life when Jesus has come to you in a personal way and given you new insight into His love and authority in your life? Jesus may come to us through a friend's counsel, a sermon's wisdom, or simply a new sense on the heart of the presence and love of Christ. Take a moment to respond in worship as you remember and acknowledge His grace in your life.

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## 5. Read John 9:39-41

### *The Pharisees refuse to see their blindness*

- a. How have the Pharisees become progressively more confirmed in their rejection of spiritual sight? Consider these passages:
  - i. John 9:16
  - ii. John 9:24
  - iii. John 9:34
- b. ➤*For deeper thought:* We learned in John 3:17 that Jesus was not sent by God to condemn the world, but to bring salvation to the world. Even so, Jesus proclaims in John 9:39 that His coming brings judgment, as His presence demands a decision.
  - i. How was the blind man responsive to the Light of the world?
  - ii. How did the Pharisees intensify their blindness?
  - iii. How does John 3:19-20 add to your understanding?
- c. *For personal and private reflection:* Perhaps you are still on the path to a full understanding and acceptance of who Jesus is. Is there some aspect of Christianity that is still perplexing to you? Pray that God will give you insight—that He will reveal Himself to you from His Word. You may want to talk with your discussion leader privately about questions you may have.

***Jesus is the Light that dispels the darkness  
and overcomes our spiritual blindness***