

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

John 9

Opening

- Gathering: Do bad things happen to us as punishment for the bad things we do? If so, what might the World Trade Center victims have done to deserve such punishment?
- Today's Focus: Jesus healed a man born blind to show that God can reveal His glory through our troubles.
- Key Verses: *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." John 9:3*
- Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped Him. John 9:38*

Opening Prayer

Lesson

In the Temple Among Friends (*John 8*)

- Where is Jesus in John 8?
John 8:1-2
- Was it easy for Jesus to teach in the temple without challenge?
John 8:3-6
- Were the leaders just trying to test Him or were they already trying to get rid of Him?
John 7:32
- Why were they unable to arrest Him?
John 7:30

The Tension Mounts (*John 8:12-59*)

- Unable to trap Jesus in any way, what tactics did the Jewish leaders resort to?
John 8:48
- How did Jesus respond to this name calling?
John 8:49-51
- How did the Jews respond to Jesus' claim to have the Way to eternal life?
John 8:52-53
- How did Jesus basically say that He was the fulfillment of the promise given to Abraham?
John 8:54-56
- How did Jesus drive this claim even stronger after the Jews took this as proof that He was crazy?
John 8:57-58
- How would the Jews interpret what Jesus said?
Exodus 3:13-14
- How did the Jewish leaders respond to Jesus claiming to be God?
John 8:59 (*Leviticus 24:16*)

Healing the Blind (*John 9:1*)

- What did Jesus and His disciples see as they walked away from the temple?
John 9:1
- Notes: This is the only miracle in the gospels where the sufferer was afflicted from birth
Jesus gave sight to the blind more than any other type of miracle (*Isaiah 29:18; 35:5; 42:7*)

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An Opportunity for Teaching (*John 9:2*)

How did this man create an opportunity for Jesus to teach?

John 9:2

Note: Some rabbis taught that man can sin in the womb, or even in a pre-existent state

Why did the disciples believe his blindness was the result of some horrible sin?

Job 8:1-4

Note: Not everything in the Bible is true, but everything is true to what God wanted written

Sins of the Parents (*Exodus 34:7*)

Why did rabbis teach that you could be punished for the sins of your parents?

Exodus 34:4-7

What fuller meaning do we get of this from the original context?

Exodus 20:4-5

What is the important contrast given in the next verse?

Exodus 20:6

What is an example of God punishing those who hate Him to the 4th generation?

Numbers 16:31-33

Note: Households usually consisted of 3, sometimes 4, generations

What is another way that the sin of parents can affect their children and later generations?

Matthew 18:6

Does sinning only affect the sinner, or does it affect others as well?

Notice the many aspects of society that have resulted from past generations going astray

What are some examples of God blessing those who love Him to 1000 generations?

Genesis 17:5-7

2 Samuel 7:11c-13, 16

What is another way that the faithfulness of parents can affect their children and later generations?

Deuteronomy 4:9

The Wages of Sin (*Ezekiel 18*)

Had anyone before Jesus challenged the teaching that children are punished for their parents' sins?

Job 21:19

Did anyone else address the situation more directly?

Ezekiel 18:1-4

What did God say was the correct understanding of the result of sin?

Ezekiel 18:19-20

How did Paul contrast the results of living in sin versus living in the righteousness of faith?

Romans 6:23

Who Sinned? (*John 9:3*)

How did Jesus answer the question of who sinned?

John 9:3

Does God sometimes allow bad things to happen so His glory will show through?

John 11:1, 4, 11, 43-44

Note: Heavy publicity from this miracle led Jewish leaders to find a way to get rid of Jesus

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Who Knows the Cause? (*Job*)

What did Job's friends believe was the cause of his disasters?

Job 36:5-12

Were the friends correct?

Job 42:7

Although Job never learned the reason, why had these things happened to him?

Job 2:2-6

How should we respond when we have trouble understanding why bad things happen to good people?

Job 26:14

The Light of the World (*John 9:4-5*)

How did Jesus explain to His disciples that giving God's vision to this man was part of His calling?

John 9:4-5

How is Jesus the light of the world?

John 8:12

If Jesus is the light of life, why don't all people fly to Him like June bugs on a window screen?

John 3:19-20

Why do men love the darkness and hate the light?

Ephesians 5:11-14

How should we conduct ourselves when living in the light of the Lord?

Ephesians 5:8-10

Why is it important to bear the fruit of the light?

Matthew 5:14-16

See the Faith (*John 9:6-7*)

How did Jesus deal with the man's blindness?

John 9:6

Was this Jesus' magical way to repair a bad eye? Maybe a first century radial keratotomy?

Matthew 9:27-31

How did Jesus call upon the man's faith to complete the healing?

John 9:7

Did Jesus' approach help people focus on the message rather than the method?

John 9:10, 15, 19, 26

Neighbors and Friends (*John 9:8-17*)

Did the fact that this man who had been blind since birth could see bring his neighbors to faith?

John 9:8-9

How did they respond when they couldn't dispute that this really was the blind man?

John 9:10-12

Unable to find a logical explanation on their own, to whom did the neighbors turn?

John 9:13

What issue concerned the Pharisees when they heard what Jesus had done?

John 9:14-16

Unable to figure it out, where did they turn for insight?

John 9:17

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Investigation by the Pharisees (*John 9:18-34*)

With this man appearing to be a liar or in cahoots with this Jesus, what did they investigate next?

John 9:18-21

Why did the parents avoid responding to how their son received their sight?

John 9:22-23

Note: The synagogue was the center of Jewish community life, membership was important

Realizing that a significant miracle had really happened, what did the Pharisees do next?

John 9:24-26

How did they respond when the man questioned their motives?

John 9:27-29

How did the man respond that showed his understanding of Jesus and his growing faith in Him?

John 9:30-33

How did the Pharisees respond to this claim that reflected an erroneous belief they had?

John 9:34

The Blind Man Sees (*John 9:35-38*)

How was the man who had stood up for Jesus before the Pharisees even further blessed?

John 9:35

Note: *Son of Man* was a term recognized by the Jews to refer to the Messiah (Daniel 7:13-14)

How did the man respond to Jesus' inquiry of his faith in the Messiah?

John 9:36

How did the man respond when Jesus pointed him to the Messiah?

John 9:37-38

How did the man grow in faith and understanding of Jesus through this story?

John 9:11, 17, 33, 35-38

The Seeing Go Blind (*John 9:39-41*)

What other lesson does this story have for us besides gaining sight through faith?

John 9:39

What does Jesus tell the Pharisees that warns us of the blindness of sin without the sight of faith?

John 9:40-41

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What sins have blinded me for a long time?
(*Job 5:14; 24:13-17; Proverbs 4:18-19; Romans 7:15-25; 13:12-14; 1 John 2:9-11*)
2. Why do I continue to repeat and accept certain sins?
(*John 1:4-5; Psalm 52:1-4; Ecclesiastes 2:13-14; Matthew 6:22-23; Luke 16:8; 1 John 2:15-17*)
3. How do I react when my sins are revealed?
(*John 3:19-21; 9:25b, 39-41; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-2*)
4. How can I gain control and victory over temptations that Satan has found effective against me?
(*John 8:12; 12:46; Luke 11:33-36; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:11-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11*)
5. How do I intend to live as a child of the light of God?
(*John 9:4-5; 11:9-10; 12:35-36; Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 5:8-10; 1 Peter 2:9*)