



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of June 5, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- As a kid (or an adult), what was the most fun you had with mud?
- Many people believe that suffering or illness is a punishment for wrong choices in life ("bad karma"). Do you think we suffer because of the things we do?

Context

In the ancient world, people often believed that sickness and tragedies were the result of sin. And of course, sometimes our choices do have significant consequences that might be avoided by making wise choices. However, that's not always the case. Everyone suffers at some point, some more than others. Today we walk through the story in John chapter 9 of a man born physically blind. That is, until he meets Jesus.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 9:1-15 NIV

"As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. 8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." 10 "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. 11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." 12 "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

Discuss

1. How did Jesus' disciples view the relationship between sickness and sin? What was Jesus' view of the blind man's condition?
2. When you hear about, or observe, someone in a tough life situation, does your first reaction tend to be more like the disciples (analytical) or more like Jesus (compassionate)? Why? How did this show up in your family of origin growing up?

3. What does Jesus mean by “the work of God” (v3)? The “night” that is coming (v4)? The “light of the world” (v5)?
4. Pastor Dave shared that “I need to be more willing to see past my own circumstances and open my eyes to those in need right in front of me.” What comes to your mind when you think about this? What hinders this from happening in life? What might help us to do better at this? Who do you know that seems to do this well? What’s different about their life or approach?
5. How does this passage encourage you? How does it inform your understanding of the work and heart of Jesus?
6. Salvation has been described as “coming into the light.” What are some ways that unbelievers are blind? What are some things true followers of Jesus see?
7. If you had to rate your life on a scale of 1-10 (1 being blind and 10 full of spiritual light), what rating would you give yourself? Why? How does this impact or reveal itself in your life? Your relationships?
8. Share about an adversity or struggle you faced that turned into an opportunity for God to demonstrate His compassion, love, and power. Or, how have you seen God use your suffering for your good?
9. God does not always remove our pain and suffering, but He has promised to always meet us in it. How have you experienced Jesus meeting you in your suffering? What does this mean to you? How does this inform any struggles you (or someone you know) are facing?
10. Read and discuss: [Psalm 46:1, Psalm 56:8, and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#)
11. Pastor Dave has shared that “The same God works differently in different lives.” How have you seen this to be true? How does this encourage you? How does it challenge you? Help you?

Challenge

We have seen an increasing number of examples of suffering in our nation recently. Tragic and horrendous situations. Take some time to pray for those experiencing suffering and pain. How can your group reach out, support, and help someone that is hurting right now?

This week, think about how you handle the pain and suffering in your life and the lives of those you love. Instead of letting it create distance between you and God, come closer to God who embraced suffering. The God who embraced suffering also longs to embrace you. - Carey Nieuwhof

End Your Group Time in Prayer

