

Week Beginning: 15th March 2020

Worship Series: #5 in series



Deep Cycle

living sharing growing



lifegroups
live life abundantly

Theme Verse

One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see! John 9:25

Remember This Week

When you have defined yourself or others in terms of tragedy, challenge or limitation, or let others define you in that way, know this: the mud of darkness will always give way to the light of Christ. Let his grace not only give you clarity of vision but confidence to step into the open future he gives.



This is what God the Lord says—

the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people

and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison

and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 42:5-7

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world, who gives sight to the blind. Open our eyes to see the wondrous things that you have done, and continue to do in the world today. Come and reveal the fears, attachments and beliefs that cause blindness in our lives that we may see you with clarity, believe in you with certainty and live with deep vision because of who you are and what you are doing. Bless this time that we share together in your precious name. Amen.



1. *Share your highs and lows for the past week.*
2. *Accountability time! How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *All the news at the moment is about coronavirus. How are you coping/responding to this worldwide threat that is confronting us?*
4. *If you had to give up a hand, a foot, or an eye, which would you give up and why?*

"There are none are so blind as those who will not see." It's more than just a proverb. It's a vision impairment that confronts many. Blindness is not about the quality of our vision or the condition of our eyes. How we see others, what we see in the world, the way we see life is less about the objects of our seeing and more about ourselves. It's a reflection of the fears, attachments and beliefs that we hold onto tightly and which we project onto the world. Today Jesus wants us to confront our own blindness and own myopic and selective vision in order to see a large reality and live with a deep vision that comes from him. It's a vision that opens up a totally new perspective and way of life for us.



Read John 9:1-41

First thoughts/reflections

5. *What part of this reading spoke to/touched or challenged you the most?*
6. *Why would Jesus use mud in the person blind from birth's eyes when he already couldn't see?*
7. *Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples, the blindman's neighbour's and the Pharisees? What causes each of the blindness in their eyes?*
8. *How have your fears determined the way you view things? Share concrete examples if you can.*





9. *What other things cause you to be desensitised to the needs of those around you?*

Spiritual blindness can occur in a number of ways. The reading from John 9:1-41 highlights three common ways our sight is impaired.

a. **our fears gives us nearsighted vision**

Fear rivets our attention on that thing we fear to the exclusion of everything else around us. That one thing is all we can think about, all that we can see. Fear narrows our world view to only that which we can see right in front and our vision becomes myopic, nearsighted to the point of exclusion - we are blind to others and their needs.

b. **we have selective vision**

Have you ever noticed that when your heart is focussed on something, it is all your mind sees. You decide on a particular car to buy and then you realise how many of them you see on the road! Or you find out your pregnant and suddenly you notice every pram in the neighbourhood. Our mind attaches to that thing and we turn a blind eye to anything that would threaten that thing we believe is necessary for our existence or happiness.

c. **we have fixed or rigid vision**

We've made up our mind about the way things are - a judgment about something, a course of action or a view and we are unwilling to consider alternatives.

10. *Which vision impairment, from the above three, do you most suffer from? Why?*
11. *It was a common understanding in Jesus' day to believe people experienced trials because they had sinned (see Luke 13:1-5). In this case, the disciples attribute blindness to either the man or the parent's sin. To what degree do people today see handicaps, suffering and trials as a result of a person's sin/poor choices in life?*
12. *Jesus doesn't answer the 'cause' question but turns the disciples' focus to the purpose of the blindness. What did Jesus say was the purpose for the man's blindness and how does what we read in this whole account, achieve that purpose?*
13. *The blind man was not healed immediately. Why do you think that Jesus did not give sight instantly and what life lesson can we learn from that?*
14. *What transformation do you see in the life of the man born blind when he receives deep spiritual vision?*

The man blind from birth is not just a single individual, he is every man and woman, boy and girl. The only difference between him and all the others in the passage is that he knows he is blind. Until we know we are blind we can never see with new eyes. ***“What? Are we blind too?”*** (John 9:40)

15. *Jesus puts mud in the eyes of the blindman to help him recognise his spiritual blindness. What is a fear, an attachment, or a belief that you have currently that you Jesus needs to put mud in your eyes so that you recognise your blindness?*
16. *The blind man received deep vision by listening to the voice of Jesus and acting in obedience to that word (Washing his eyes in the water to which he was sent). How is your listening to Jesus' word at the present time and what steps can you take so you can discover a deep vision in your life?*

- * Praise God for his gift of faith calling you into his kingdom. Thank Jesus for see you and your needs. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you listen and act in obedience to the voice of Jesus so that you may see him and others with deep vision.
- * Ask God to reveal the blindspots in your life which are stopping you from seeing what he is doing in the world and your own life clearly.
- * Pray for a growing courage to give voice to your belief in Jesus Christ in a world that is in darkness.
- * Pray for those living in fear, especially with the current coronavirus crisis, that God would reveal his care and compassion for those in need.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, may you see and believe in Christ alone. Amen.

