



John 9 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Read all of John 9, having different members of the group read a section. This is a long passage: what sticks out to you? What strikes you as important?
- What happened in chapters 6-8? How do the events of these chapters lead to the events of chapter 9?
- Why do you think that John takes so much time to tell this story in such detail?
- Wesley noted that verse 1 includes the fact that Jesus *sees* this man. What does this tell us about the character of Jesus?
 - Why does it matter that Jesus moves towards this man first?
 - What does this say about us? How is this good news?
 - What might it look like to be “imitators of Christ” and move towards those in need as Jesus moved towards this man and moved towards us?
- The passage begins by describing the miracle. Why do you think that the disciples asked whether this man or his parents sinned? Is this a relevant question to the situation?
 - What are some problems with the disciples’ assumptions here?
 - How would you summarize Jesus’ response in verses 3-5?

- Wesley mentioned that Jesus' response indicates that specific suffering is often not caused by specific sin. How, then, does this passage help us think about suffering?
- Wesley also pointed out that Jesus' response moves to the *purpose* of suffering. How does the concept of *God's purpose* help us think about our suffering?
- How does the actual miracle happen? Why do you think it happens this way?
 - Wesley said that one miracle is that the blind man sees, but the other is that Jesus is able to anoint the blind man using spit and mud. Why do you think that Jesus chooses spit and mud to anoint this man?
 - What can we learn from the fact that Jesus is able to use ordinary stuff to do something miraculous? What does this say about us?
- How does the crowd react to the miracle? Why do they decide to bring him to the Pharisees?
- How do the Pharisees react?
 - How would you characterize the attitude of the Pharisees toward this man and his family?
 - Why are they so threatened by the miracle?
 - What do they end up doing to the man in verse 34?
 - At the end of the passage, in verses 40-41, Jesus gets to the core problem with the Pharisees. What does the core issue seem to be?
- Wesley said that blindness about their blindness characterizes the Pharisees, and this kind of blindness is deadly for us as well. Why is blindness about our blindness so dangerous?
 - What does it take for someone to realize that they're blind?

- How can spiritual pride pollute our hearts even after we've been saved?
- What does it take to remove spiritual pride from our hearts?
- In contrast to the Pharisees, how would you characterize the man born blind? How does he grow over the course of the passage?
 - How do you think he felt when Jesus sought him out?
 - Why was worship the proper response? What other responses to miracles have we seen so far in John?
 - How do you stay aware of the things that Jesus is doing in your heart and your life? How do we maintain a lifestyle of worship in response to His work in our lives?