



Spiritual Blindness

Unit 6: Invitation to the Abundant life

LAST WEEK

Jesus performs two miracles, including one from a distance. These miracles show Jesus to be the Messiah (John 4:46-54 [5:1-18]).

THIS WEEK

Jesus performs another miracle by healing a man on the Sabbath who was born blind, causing division and doubt within the Pharisees (John 9:1-41).

Story Summary

A man who was born blind had been forced to provide for himself by begging. Some assumed he was blind as a punishment for a sin. Jesus denied this claim and healed the man. The man shared this with others. Those who heard about this miracle brought him before the Pharisees. The Pharisees refused to believe that Jesus gave the man his sight. They accused the man of being a sinner and sent him out of the synagogue. Jesus came to the man and revealed his identity as the Son of God. The man believed.

The Point

Jesus draws us into relationship even through our brokenness and disbelief.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Pharisees

Pharisees were a group of Jewish leaders who separated themselves from common life. They were devoted to the Torah, God's law, rigorously teaching and following it. They were influential and authoritative in their interpretation of Scripture. Pharisees resisted outside influence—cultural, religious, political—holding strictly to the law they followed. The New Testament Gospels tell of instances when they challenged Jesus' actions as being unlawful, such as when he healed on the Sabbath in John 9:13-17.

Practice: Fellowship

Lives are changed and the Body of Christ is built up through loving and caring relationships. Acts of fellowship are any actions that build these relationships. In today's Scripture passage Jesus called himself the light. As a family, shine the light of Jesus into the lives of someone you know through a friendly visit, call, or card.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus declares that he is the Resurrection and the Life and brings his friend Lazarus from death back to life (John 11:1-44).

Going Deeper

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ✦ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ✦ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ✦ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- ✦ End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

Note: This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday - Read John 9:1-41

Jesus identified himself as the light and healed a man who was born blind.

- In what ways is Jesus like a light to you?
- What questions do you have about Jesus?

Monday - Read Matthew 17:1-13

The disciples experienced the transfiguration.

- What does the name God calls Jesus mean to you?
- Why were the disciples told not to share the vision until after Jesus rose from the dead?

Tuesday - Read Luke 12:22-34

Jesus gave a lesson about worrying.

- What things do you worry about?
- How can you follow Jesus' instructions in verse 31?

Wednesday - Read John 10:1-18

Jesus is identified as the Good Shepherd.

- List all the responsibilities of a shepherd. You can also look up facts about shepherds online.
- How does the image of Jesus as a shepherd show you his care for you?

Thursday - Read Luke 15:1-7

Jesus told the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

- Picture yourself as that one lost sheep. Tell the story of Jesus seeking and finding you.
- How do you feel knowing that Jesus will always search for you?

Friday - Read John 10:22-30

Jesus said that his sheep hear his voice and he knows them.

- Whose voices do you recognize without people identifying themselves?
- How do you hear the voice of God?

Saturday - Read John 10:31-42

Jesus' signs pointed to his identity, but the Jews were still upset that he indicated that he was equal with God.

- What is the connection with Jesus' works or signs and his identity as God's Son?
- What brought people to believe in Jesus: his signs or his identity?