

Connection Group Questions

For the week of May 18, 2025

This Week's Message: *"Lives Changed by Christ Should Proclaim Christ"*

Passages: John 9:1-11

The following questions for discussion are designed to help move the Sunday morning teaching to a deeper place in the lives of those who hear it.

Getting-To-Know-Me Question

1. As connection groups break for the summer, share the joys, memories, and blessings of seeing how God used your group this past year which has *"changed your life that you now desire to proclaim Christ more."*

Into-The-Bible Questions

2. **As a group, read John 9:1-11. Jesus heals the man who was born blind.**
 - Are there any aspects from Sunday's message or these verses that stand out to you?
3. **In verses 1-2, the disciples are focused on the root of why this man was born blind.**
 - Clarify the underlying assumptions the disciples have about sin and suffering.
 - The world calls this "karma," but have you ever fallen into this line of thinking?
 - What exactly are the disciples failing to grasp about God and His purpose?
 - Why do you think Jesus chose to heal this man even though he didn't ask to be healed?
 - Consider the example of Job and how his friends likened God's wrath to his suffering.
4. **In verses 3-4, Jesus focuses on the purpose that can come from our suffering.**
 - What does Jesus mean when He said, *"this came about so that God's works might be displayed?"* What are the "works"? Read John 4:34; 5:36-38; 17:3-5.
 - Read 1 Peter 1:5-7. What specific words in these verses emphasize God's role in protecting our faith during our suffering?
 - What does it look like for us as believers when we *"rejoice in our suffering?"*
5. **In verse 5, Jesus reiterates His identity as the *"light of the world"* as He did in John 8:12.**
 - How does this serve to highlight the purpose of Jesus' actions here?
 - How is it possible for us to be a *"light"* in this world when we are suffering?
 - How does our perspective and our knowledge of God's character play a role in our understanding of the importance of being a light to others and bringing God glory? Read 2 Corinthians 1:4-7; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Revelation 21:3-4.
6. **In verse 6, Jesus makes mud from saliva and spreads it on the man's eyes.**
 - Why do you think Jesus would use such an unusual, off-putting display to perform this miracle and not a more noble, majestic way to heal the man?
 - In what ways is this an ugly picture that parallels to the ugliness displayed in the gospel, as well as a picture of spiritual cleansing when the man was washed in the pool?
 - How might this also be a picture of creation, the Creator, and that He alone is God?
 - There was nothing medicinal about the mud itself that was able to heal, so what then do you think the disciples were led to conclude about what brought sight to this man?
 - Why do you think Jesus never chose to heal people in the same manner twice?

7. Consider how this man was born with blindness and there was absolutely nothing he could do to make himself see.

- How is it the same in the spiritual realm?
- What can we learn from this man that has never seen Jesus before, but only heard His voice, and then chose to follow His instructions?
- What do you think is the overall message in these passages?

Application For the Week

Every day, God brings people into our lives who are living in darkness and are spiritually blind. It may be someone we've met for a few minutes or someone we've known for years. Jesus said, *"You are the light of the world. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand."* (Matt. 15:14-16). Take a moment to consider this: What platform has God given you to speak His truth from? He has strategically positioned us on our very own lampstand along with our sufferings, joys, experiences, our gifts, and our talents, because He wants us to shine His light with a life that has been changed and is ready and willing to proclaim what Christ has done for us. This week, let's shine our light into a dark world and give our Father in heaven all the glory He deserves.

How Your Group Can Pray This Week

When suffering happens in this life, it can be hard, but we don't have to go it alone. God knows us, hears us, and understands all too well what it means to suffer. This week, pray that we choose to glorify our Savior through our suffering and that we learn to depend on Him even more to bring glory to the name of Jesus and what He did for us. *"Therefore, we do not give up, for we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, and have been called according to His purpose, and this momentary light affliction is producing for us an incomparable weight of eternal glory."* (Romans 8:28 and 2 Cor. 4:17).

How We Can Be Praying for New Heights

Continue to pray for our leaders and the children who will be experiencing a fun-filled week of faith discoveries by getting to know who Jesus is at our upcoming *"AnswersVBS: Wonder Junction."* What a wonderful means to extend potentially life-changing opportunities to those who are not typically a part of any church. Pray that gospel seeds are planted, and relationships are built in the community with the goal of pointing people to Christ and making His name known.