

THE GOSPEL



Week 1: Revisited "I once was blind..."

John 9

OPEN

Welcome to our series called **"The Gospel"** which means good news! Like examining a fine jewel, we are going to examine the various facets of the gospel reflecting on a different dimension of its message each week. We are going to see how the gospel is central to our life, our faith, our work, and the way we interact with others. We are going to look at the personal and public dimensions of the gospel so that we can have a complete view of not only how the gospel intersects our lives but also the lives of others that we interact with. This first week we will be revisiting the gospel through the story of Jesus restoring the sight of a blind man.

SHARE & RECONNECT

- When you think of the gospel what comes to mind?
- What is your earliest memory of hearing the gospel?
 - Who or what played a key role in your hearing and understanding the gospel?
 - How did you respond?

READING

- Read the full story of the blind man in John 9.
 - Think about all the groups that make up this story. How does each group respond to the blind man? Jesus, disciples, neighbours, Pharisees, blind man's parents.
 - Jesus' changes the blind man's life in an unexpected way. Are there times when Jesus worked in your life/answered a prayer in a way you were not expecting? How did this impact your faith?

REFLECT

- **Review John 9:8-12.** The first crowd of people doubt what they see. How much does sight influence your faith? Share about a time God was doing something in your life that at the time you couldn't see.
- **Review John 9:18-23.** When questioned the blind man's parents remain silent for fear of being persecuted.
 - Are there times in your life that you struggled to share Jesus for fear of how others might respond?
 - How has God given you courage to use words or actions to show the love of Jesus towards others? How did it impact those people? How did that grow your faith?

HE REPLIED, "WHETHER HE IS A SINNER OR NOT, I DON'T KNOW. ONE THING I DO KNOW. I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE!"

—JOHN 9:25

The subtle irony of the story is that the unlearned blind man can see the miracle of God where the seeing Pharisees are shown to be blind. What is unexplainable by the Pharisees is undeniably standing before them saying, **"I was blind but now I see!"**

- This simple testimony of restored sight is personal and powerful. Take some time to briefly share your own testimonies. **When did Jesus open your eyes and transform your life through the gospel?**

PRAY

1. Jesus said in John 6 that no one can come to him unless the Father "draws" or "enables" them. Who in your life do you need to pray that the Holy Spirit would draw into a relationship with Jesus? Pray for them as a group.
2. John 9 is a story of transformation when a man is brought from darkness into light by Jesus who is the light of the world. What is one area of your life that is keeping you in the dark? Pray for each other that the restoring light of Christ would dispel that darkness.
3. At our previous discerning prayer night God directed us to pray unity, humility and love (1 Cor 13). Pray those things over our staff, elders, ministry leaders, and church during this time of transition.