

**LESSON 4: THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION**

This includes:

- 1. LEADER PREPARATION**
- 2. LESSON GUIDE**

**1. LEADER PREPARATION****LESSON OVERVIEW**

Sometimes we lose our way as Christians and can get confused about what we're really supposed to be doing. This has a lot to do with vision—specifically, God's vision for our lives. It is easy for teenagers to find themselves wondering if this is what life's all about—just going to church, or just going to youth group. Is there something more that they're supposed to do? Is there something that Jesus wants them to see? John 9 is a beautiful passage about Jesus healing a man who was born blind and how it ruined his life—for good.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES**

- 1. WHAT:** Jesus' miraculous work created a measure of trouble for one young man as he was looked down upon by his friends, abandoned by his family, and kicked out of his religious community—all because his sight was restored.
- 2. WHY:** A lot of things call out for our teenagers' attention, but Jesus wants to remove those distractions so that he can ask our teenagers a life-changing question.
- 3. HOW:** Students will examine Jesus' miraculous healing of a blind man and the events that followed that healing, and they'll consider if there are any noises or distractions in their lives keeping them from seeing Jesus clearly.

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE**

John 9:1-38

**SECONDARY SCRIPTURE**

Mark 8:22-26

**TEACHING PREP**

**LEADER  
TIP**

**Use this short overview to prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your group, you'll want to absorb it as you prepare to lead.**

**Read John 9:1-38.**

This passage can be broken down into three main sections. In the first section (verses 1-7) Jesus and his disciples encountered a man who was born blind. A dialogue ensued as to why he was born that way. Was he born that way because of a generational sin issue or something the man did? Jesus defeated the idea of sin in this instance and focused everyone on the work of God in the young man's life. Jesus then healed the man so that God would receive glory.

Section two (verses 8-34) is all about the young man's journey with his newly found vision (literally). As he returned to the village after washing in the pool, the miraculous healing was immediately questioned. This led to a formal tribunal at which the Pharisees challenged the man's claims and questioned the legality of Jesus healing people on the Sabbath. The end of this section shows the young man being kicked out of his religious community because he couldn't explain how he had been healed.

In the final section (verses 35-38), we find the young man alone—cast out from his family and community, and it is here in this lonely place that Jesus found him. This short but sweet interaction with the young man begins with an amazing question: “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” (The Son of Man is a name that Jesus gave himself.) This question is so very important now, as it was then, because our students have a lot of things calling out for their attention. What if Jesus is attempting to remove them from some of that so that he can ask them the most important question ever?

## **THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]**

### **TEXTS OR TWEETS**

**Send one or both of these messages to your students prior to your meeting. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.**

- What was the most important question Jesus ever asked? Come out this week and find out!
- How do questions bring us to a place of relationship? Come hear about a powerful question Jesus is asking you. See you tonight!

### **PARENT EMAIL**

**Send this email to parents following the lesson to encourage them to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.**

Dear parents,

We just finished our series focusing on four different questions Jesus asked in the Gospels. In this final lesson, we explored John 9:1-38, where Jesus healed a young man who was born blind. This miracle of Jesus actually created a measure of trouble for the young man as he was looked down upon by his friends, abandoned by his family, and kicked out of his religious community—all because his sight was restored!

The beautiful end of the story shows Jesus meeting him at a time of need and bringing things back into focus with an on-target question: “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” There's a lot going on in this passage, but one truth is clear: Despite what's happening in the lives of our students, Jesus wants to know if they believe in him.

This week, I encourage you to spend a few minutes talking with your teenager about our lesson. Consider building your conversation around these questions:

- What has Jesus given you a vision to do or to be?
- Do you ever struggle with your identity as a follower of Jesus?
- What are some similarities between physical blindness and spiritual blindness? What are some differences?

- What can we do as a family to make sure we're constantly answering the question about whether we believe in Jesus?

Thanks for all your continued prayers for our students and our ministry. Have a blessed week!

## LESSON 4: THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

## 2. LESSON GUIDE

## GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

LEADER  
TIP

Prior to your gathering, collect a bunch of household items that make noise when you operate them (such as a stapler, scissors, egg timer, electric razor, and so on). Make sure to include some objects that are easy to guess—and some that will be difficult to guess. You may also want to include something that makes a particularly funny sound!

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then lead students in this opening activity.

Explain that you are going to play a guessing game. Everyone must close their eyes and cover them with their hands—no peeking! Then you as the leader will pull out a box full of objects that make specific noises when used. One by one, “use” each object so it makes its sound, and have students see if they can guess what the object is—purely by its sound.

**VARIATIONS:** If students are able to guess all of the objects right away, you can make the game more challenging by asking defining questions. For example, if the object in question is a stapler, ask how big it is, or how old it is, or even what color it is. You also could talk while making each object’s noise, which will make it more difficult to guess.

Students likely won’t be able to identify some of the objects without seeing them, but that will help drive home the idea of what it’s like to be blind.

## ASK:

- *What made this activity difficult?*
- *What are some other things you might be able to identify just by their sound?*
- *OK, we only did this with a few items and you knew you’d be able to open your eyes afterward. What would it have been like if you were blind?*
- *If you have a family member or a friend that is blind, what truths or life lessons have you learned from them?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *This activity called for us to experience temporary sight loss, but many people are either born with blindness or develop blindness over time. Today we’re going to talk about a young man’s encounter with Jesus in which his blindness was cured, and his life took an amazing turn.*

## TEACHING POINTS



Use the Teaching Points to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

Read John 9:1-38 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so several people have a chance to read.

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *There's a lot going on in this passage, let's take a look at the three main parts of the story.*

## 1. JESUS WANTS TO HEAL OUR BLINDNESS

### ASK:

- *What's your immediate reaction to the conversation between Jesus and his disciples in the first few verses of this passage—particularly if you've never heard or read this Scripture before?*
- *What do you find most remarkable about verses 6-7?*
- *If you had been born blind but experienced this kind of healing, what's the first thing you would have wanted to see, and why?*
- *Most of us haven't been healed of physical blindness, so what might you compare this healing to? What analogy might be accurate and appropriate here?*
- *What are some similarities between physical blindness and spiritual blindness? What are some differences?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *This interaction with Jesus accomplished two things: God had compassion on a blind man so Jesus healed him, and God received glory for the miracle. Jesus didn't perform miracles simply because he could—he was carrying out the will of God.*

## 2. VISION CAN SOMETIMES SEPARATE US FROM OTHERS

### ASK:

- *Look at the next section, verses 8-34. What's your reaction to this man's reception when he went back home?*
- *When have you had to defend to people that you were truly different because of your faith in Jesus, that Jesus had truly changed your life? Or phrased another way, when have you struggled with your identity as a follower of Jesus?*
- *Why were the Pharisees so upset with the circumstances of this healing?*
- *What does verse 34 reveal about the Pharisees?*
- *Is it possible that we sometimes act like these Pharisees? Why or why not?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *This man's day started out like any other, until he met Jesus. He was miraculously healed and headed home to celebrate his newfound vision. But things didn't go like he planned. People doubted him, and he was eventually punished for something he didn't even do. As Christ-followers we can sometimes feel like outsiders—Jesus has done something in us that others might not understand. But that doesn't change the reality of what has happened in our lives.*

### 3. REMEMBER THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO LOOK AT

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *In a beautiful display of love and compassion, Jesus returned to this young man after hearing about his trial before the Pharisees. Jesus found him alone and abandoned. The young man had vision but nothing to look at. It was at this moment that Jesus asked him the most important question, involving a name Jesus called himself: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" This question remains so important for us today, because even though there is a lot going on in our lives, the one thing Jesus cares about is if we believe in him.*

**ASK:**

- *Look at the final section of this passage, verses 35-38. What is most surprising about Jesus' interaction with this young man?*
- *Have you experienced Jesus like this man did? Do you feel like Jesus has given you something to see? Tell us about that.*

### EXTRA DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

**Ask students to form groups of two or three to discuss these questions.**



**ASK:**

- *Read Mark 8:22-26. How is this story similar to the John 9 passage? How are these two events different?*
- *What is significant about Jesus' words to the man in verse 26?*

**Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.**

### LIVING IT OUT

**ASK:**

- *What is something that Jesus has asked you to see?*
- *Are any noises or distractions in your life keeping you from seeing Jesus clearly? If so, what can you do to remove them?*
- *The John 9 passage ends with the young man worshipping Jesus. How might this Scripture change or challenge our attitude about worship?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Another way to think about receiving a vision from Jesus is this: What do you think Jesus has specifically wired you to do? Why do you care about helping the poor, or why do you want to go on a mission trip, or why do you want to go into business? Those are just examples of the way Jesus might be giving you vision.*



LEADER  
TIP

Ask students to each find a quiet spot in your meeting area for a few minutes of prayer and reflection. Consider praying together as a group or asking if any students would like prayer from the rest of the group.

## SUMMARY



LEADER  
TIP

Provide a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) this lesson's content, (2) the dialogue that took place today, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

## FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the Scripture below.

*"When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'"*  
(John 9:35).