

# “Closer Walk” Bible Study

## The Gospel Of John Chapter 9

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

### Getting us started

1. Describe an adventure you had with mud when you were a child.
2. Describe a time when an authority figure (your boss, a police officer, your pastor) pulled you over for a talk.
3. What 24-hour period in your life had the most ups and downs?

### Getting us into Scripture

4. What idea lies behind the disciples' question (v. 1): Curiosity? Guilt-tripping? A trap? Compassion?
5. What does Jesus' answer (vv. 3-5) reveal about how he views the man's suffering?
6. In this story, what is the "work of God" (v. 3)? The "night" that is coming (v. 4)? The "light of the world" (v. 5)? How are sin and suffering related?
7. What convinces some of the Pharisees to stand against Jesus (v. 16; see also 5:9-10,23)? What question bothers others? Why does Jesus keep healing on the Sabbath when it upsets the Pharisees so much?
8. In light of their divided opinion, why do the Pharisees question the man's parents (vv. 18-23)? How would you feel if you were his father or mother?
9. Note the conflicting claims to knowledge and certainty on the part of the Pharisees, the parents and the man born blind. What is each party sure of? Not sure of?
10. In the course of this investigation, what is the man able to see about Jesus (vv. 12, 25, 27, 30-33, 26, 38)? About the Pharisees? How is his attitude changing?
11. In contrast to the man's spiritual insight, how are the Pharisees progressing?
12. What is the Pharisees' real motive in questioning the man (vv. 28, 34)? What in the man's response finally puts them "over the top"?
13. Why does Jesus wait until now to fully present himself? How is the man, only now, able to affirm Jesus as Lord?
14. What blindness is the result of sin (vv. 39-41)? How do such guilty people see again?

### Getting Scripture into us

15. What physical or emotional misfortune in your life has turned into an opportunity for God to demonstrate his power?
16. When you hear about another person's misfortune, do you react like the disciples or Jesus? Why?
17. Who has been the toughest person for you to explain your faith to? Why? What have you found to be helpful in dealing with people who ridicule your faith?
18. Has your faith in Jesus led to your exclusion from any group? How has this hurt or helped you?
19. Have you ever been afraid of religious leaders? Why?
20. Describe your own spiritual sight: 20-20? Near-sighted? Far-sighted? A few "blind spots"? Why? What could correct this?