

HIS|STORY
Small Group Questions • Week of 07/23/17
Helping People See • John 9:1-7

Getting Started:

1) Summer is in full swing. What have you done so far? What do you plan on doing?

Digging Deeper: (Read John 9:1-7)

2) In verse 2 the disciples see a man with a disability and immediately conclude that he has it because of some particular act of sin.

a) Give examples of how some suffering can be traced to particular sins.

b) Have you ever made a connection between your suffering and sin, even though there was no clear connection? Share an example.

c) What would you say to someone who told you that a person is disabled or suffering in some way because they had sinned?

3) The disciples are looking past a man who is hurting and would prefer only to discuss the matter. In verse 4 Jesus essentially says, "Let's stop talking and do something about it!"

a) How do you keep your heart tender to those in chronic need?

b) What ministries or non-profit organizations in our community do you find the most interest in?

4) In verse 3 Jesus gives a very different explanation for this man's condition. They are saying something like, "*God saw that he would sin, therefore he brought him into the world blind.*" Jesus seems to say, "*God knew how powerful this miracle would be, so he let him come into the world blind.*"

a) What are other ways to interpret what Jesus is saying?

b) Compare this passage with Exo.4:11. How do these passages shape/challenge how you understand God's sovereignty?

c) What would people see about God through this blind man?

5) Most people aren't healed of the infirmities they have. But we do have some examples where infirmed people see things about God precisely because God doesn't heal them.

a) Look at 2 Cor. 12:7-10 and discuss what Paul sees?

b) In the message the speaker says that we can often work backwards from our infirmity to a certain attribute of God that we see better because he sustains us in it. Name as many attributes of God as you can. Discuss how we might see each of them more clearly when God sustains us in our infirmities (instead of removing them).

Putting It Into Practice:

6) Everyone has a list of things they are struggling with. Share something on your list and discuss what God wants you to see about him in your struggle.