

More Than a Miracle – Week 7 Small Group Questions

Ice Breaker

1. What are some funny questions you have heard kids ask? Similarly, what are some funny things you have heard kids say that you never thought you would hear?
2. What are some “why” questions you would love to know the answer to?

Scripture



John 9:1-38, As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. ² “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” ³ “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. ⁴ We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. ⁵ But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes. ⁷ He told him, “Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “sent”). So the man went and washed and came back seeing! ⁸ His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some said he was, and others said, “No, he just looks like him!”

But the beggar kept saying, “Yes, I am the same one!” ¹⁰ They asked, “Who healed you? What happened?” ¹¹ He told them, “The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.’ So I went and washed, and now I can see!” ¹² “Where is he now?” they asked. “I don’t know,” he replied. ¹³ Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, ¹⁴ because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. ¹⁵ The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, “He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?” So, there was a deep division of opinion among them. ¹⁷ Then

the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, "What's your opinion about this man who healed you?" The man replied, "I think he must be a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents. ¹⁹ They asked them, "Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he now see?"

²⁰ His parents replied, "We know this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we don't know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. ²³ That's why they said, "He is old enough. Ask him." ²⁴ So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, "God should get the glory for this, ^[b] because we know this man Jesus is a sinner." ²⁵ "I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

²⁶ "But what did he do?" they asked. "How did he heal you?" ²⁷ "Look!" the man exclaimed. "I told you once. Didn't you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" ²⁸ Then they cursed him and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know God spoke to Moses, but we don't even know where this man comes from." ³⁰ "Why, that's very strange!" the man replied. "He healed my eyes, and yet you don't know where he comes from? ³¹ We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. ³² Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he couldn't have done it." ³⁴ "You were born a total sinner!" they answered. "Are you trying to teach us?" And they threw him out of the synagogue. ³⁵ When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ The man answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him." ³⁷ "You have seen him," Jesus said, "and he is speaking to you!" ³⁸ "Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

Discuss

1. What was the significance of the disciples' question about the blind man's condition?

Leaders Note:

“In that day, Jewish people actually believed that every calamity was the result of a specific sin. Many believed a baby could sin before it was born, so if a man was blind, either he or his parents had sinned, and blindness was the penalty. We don’t believe that today, by the way.” Pastor Jeff

2. Does knowing that the reason we face so many challenges in life is due to man’s sin that started with Adam and Eve make those challenges easier to understand why they are not just happening, but happening to you?
3. Read John 9:3. Pastor Jeff said, “When we face problems, the temptation is to believe that God's power is hidden. It's exposing the fact that God has no power. Or if He does, He can't be trusted with it. But I believe that God's power is always revealed in the problems we face, it just may not be in the way we expect, or the kind of power we desire. We want His power to remove all our problems - but as we've seen in this series - He doesn't always do that.” **Do you agree? How have you seen God’s power revealed through your problems?**
4. Pastor Jeff said that the main point in this passage is that Jesus wants to reveal his power over our assumptions. Specifically, our assumptions about what He can do, how He works, when He works, and who He is. Which of those assumptions do you resonate with the most? Why?
5. Have you seen God work in your or someone else's life but still questioned if it was God who worked?
6. Adam Clark says, “Perhaps the best lesson we can learn from this is: That God will do his own work in his own way; and will often accomplish His plans in ways that appear entirely contrary to the end result.” **Do you agree? Does that frustrate you, or are you at peace with that truth?**

Practice

1. What personal applications can we draw from this passage regarding our faith, understanding of Jesus, and response to those in need?

2. Take time this week to put on some worship music, kneel down, and just worship the Lord, giving Him praise for who He is and asking Him to remove any assumptions you might have about Him.