



# THE MAN BORN BLIND

JOHN 9:1-41

## GOAL

- ▶ To teach children that God can heal us physically and spiritually and that He can make the spiritually blind see.

## WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Blind:** physical inability to see; spiritual inability to see right from wrong or discern truth from lies

## MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **John 9:39:** Then Jesus told him, “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”

## OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read John 9:1-41:** Jesus and his disciples encountered a man who had been blind. The disciples asked Jesus if the man’s blindness was caused by the man’s own sin or his parents’ sin. Jesus responded that the man was blind not because of sin but so that God’s greatness could be shown. Jesus spat on the ground and made mud from the saliva. He put the mud over the man’s eyes and told him to go wash it off at a specific pool. When he did, he could see. People who knew him were amazed and couldn’t believe that it was him. Because this happened on the Sabbath, the man was brought before the Pharisees who questioned him about the man who had healed him. The man did not know who the man was or where he had gone. The Pharisees could not believe that a person could have been the source of such a miracle, so they brought in the formerly blind man’s parents. After they confirmed that the man was, in fact, born blind, they called the man back in to ask him the same questions. The Pharisees kicked the man out of the synagogue. When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and told him that He was the Son of Man and that He had come “so that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”



## SUGGESTIONS

- **Jesus Is Compassionate:** Jesus saw this man who had been born blind and was moved to help him.
- **Jesus Is Our Healer:** Not only did Jesus heal this man so that he could see, He healed him spiritually by explaining who He is and what He came to do.
- **All Jesus Asks Is That We Believe:** When Jesus asked the man if he believed in the Son of Man, the formerly blind man responded that he didn't know who the Son of Man was, but that he wanted to know so he could believe. Jesus made this man able to see physically and spiritually.

## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

**Ages 5-10** **Blind Man's Bluff** | *Supplies: piece of cloth to use as a blindfold*

Choose one student to blindfold, put him or her in the center of the room, and spin him or her around a couple of times. Have the blindfolded student count to 20. While the blindfolded student is counting, the other students should try to hide or move away from the blindfolded student. The students must freeze where they are once the counting has stopped. Students who are tagged by the blindfolded student are out. The last student remaining wins.

## MEMORY VERSE MEANING

**John 9:39:** People, like the Pharisees, often think they know right from wrong, but arrive at their conclusions without giving thought to God and their faith. Jesus came to judge those people and to give true sight and wisdom to those who believe in Him and direct their lives based on their faith.



**POST-LESSON  
ACTIVITY**

**Ages 5-10** **Hidden in Plain Sight** | **Supplies:** *Several objects, such as a cross, a heart, a picture of eyes, to hide in the room*

Hide the objects in plain sight. One object at a time, tell the students what object they are trying to find. The first student to call out, "Got it!" wins. Continue play by telling students to look for the other objects.

**TAKE  
HOME**

- **Jesus Is Compassionate:** Jesus hears our prayers and will help us through life's challenges.
- **Jesus Is Our Healer:** Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus healed us physically and spiritually.
- **All Jesus Asks Is That We Believe:** We are saved, not because of all the good things we do, but because we believe in Jesus. We can never deserve the great gift of salvation God has given to us freely.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** Jesus told His disciples that the man was born blind for what reason?

**A1:** Jesus told His disciples that the man was born blind so that the power of God could be seen in him.

**Q1b:** How would you feel if your bike were stolen?

**Teacher's Note:** We would feel really bad and betrayed. It might make us start to question whether we remembered to lock it up or bring it in when we got home. Who would do such a thing? Do we know anyone who might have taken it. Now ask the students how they would feel if someone gave us a better bike than the one that was stolen. We would probably focus all our attention on how awesome the new bike is. We would learn from the experience and make sure that the bike couldn't be stolen again, but we likely wouldn't dwell on the bike and the bad thing that happened. Bad things happen in this world, but it gives God an opportunity to show us his power and influence in our lives.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did Jesus put on the blind man's eyes?

**A2:** Jesus put mud made from His saliva on the blind man's eyes.

**Q2b:** The best way to get over a cold is to stand on your head for 30 minutes. True or false?

**TN:** False! Standing on our heads for any length of time is no more a cold remedy than using saliva to make mud to heal blindness. There is no healing power in mud, the power to heal was in Jesus. He did not need to make mud or make the man go to a specific pool to wash off the mud; he could have healed the man by just thinking it without doing or saying anything.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** How did the people who knew the blind man react when they learned that he could see?

**A3:** The people who knew the blind man couldn't believe it was really him and they asked him how it happened.

**Q3b:** Name something you think is impossible.

**TN:** Give the students a chance to answer, and if they seem stuck, offer suggestions such as dogs being able to fly or being able to breathe underwater. The people who knew the blind man thought that it was impossible for him to be healed and made able to see. They couldn't believe what they were seeing! Multiple times in the Bible, God shows us that nothing is impossible for Him. Just in the brief time that Jesus lived on the earth, He turned water into wine, walked on water, fed 5,000 people with a couple of fish and five loaves of bread, and brought a dead man back to life.

SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** The Pharisees said Jesus was not from God because He did what?

**A4:** The Pharisees said Jesus was not from God because He worked on the Sabbath.

**Q4b:** When is it a bad time to help a person in need?

**TN:** There is no bad time to help a person in need. We should always be willing to offer assistance to someone who needs help. The Pharisees were so focused on following the rules and wanting to remain in control of how people lived their lives according to their faith that they couldn't see the amazing thing that had just happened. They focused their energy on enforcing a rule about not doing work on the Sabbath instead of recognizing the power Jesus had and investigating who He was.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** How did the Pharisees try to prove that the man was not born blind?

**A5:** The Pharisees tried to prove that the man was not born blind by bringing in the man's parents.

**Q5b:** How would you prove your identity?

**TN:** There are lots of documents that show our names and who our parents are, from school IDs to birth certificates. It wouldn't be difficult for us to prove who we are. In Jesus' time, they didn't have such types of documentation. The blind man didn't have a birth certificate, and there weren't any medical records to prove that he was born blind. The only way people could verify that he had been blind all his life was to ask his parents.

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** Why did the blind man think that Jesus was from God?

**A6:** The blind man thought Jesus was from God because no one had ever been able to heal a blind person before.

**Q6b:** Have you ever tried to explain something simple to someone, but he or she just couldn't understand?

**TN:** Sometimes people don't understand because of the way we're explaining it. If we could just say it in a different way, it might make sense to them. The blind man and his parents had done their best to explain what had happened, but the Pharisees just could not make sense of this situation. There wasn't anything particularly complicated about what had happened, but the Pharisees refused to believe that Jesus had the power to do something so seemingly impossible. They had convinced themselves that Jesus was no good, and this amazing feat did not make sense with the image of Jesus that they had created.



SLIDE 7

## QUESTION & ANSWER



**Q7a:** Jesus said he entered this world to do what?

**A7:** Jesus said He entered this world to judge—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.

**Q7b:** How can a person who can see be blind?

**TN:** The word see can have different meanings. The first one means to be able to see physical objects in the environment around us. The second way we use the word see is when we're talking about being able to understand complex situations. So while the Pharisees could physically see that there was a man who had been born blind who could now see, they could not or would not understand that Jesus healed the man and that Jesus was good and not evil.



**MEMORY  
VERSES**



**John 9:39:** Then Jesus told him, "I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind."

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**BIG IDEA**



Jesus gives sight to the spiritually blind.

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**CLOSING  
PRAYER**



Father God, thank You for opening our eyes to the truth that is You. Help us to see You in every aspect of our lives. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



**QUESTION & ANSWER**



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



One day, as Jesus and His disciples were out walking, they saw a man who was born blind. The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” Jesus responded, “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins. This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.”

### SLIDE 2



Jesus spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes. Jesus told the man, “Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam.” The blind man did as Jesus told him, and when he returned, he could see!

### SLIDE 3



His neighbors and others who knew him couldn’t believe it was him, but the former blind beggar kept telling them, “Yes, it’s me!” They asked him, “Who healed you? What happened?” 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.’ I did as He told me, and now I can see!” The man’s neighbors asked where Jesus was, but he did not know.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, a group of religious leaders. When the man told the Pharisees about what had happened, some of them 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?" The man who had been blind told them he thought Jesus must be a prophet.

### SLIDE 5



The Jewish leaders refused to believe that the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents. The man's parents were afraid of the Jewish leaders because they had threatened to kick out anyone from the synagogue who said Jesus was the Messiah. So, when the Pharisees questioned them, they confirmed that he was their son and that he was born blind, but they did not know how he could see or who had healed him. They told the Pharisees to ask him for themselves. "He is old enough to speak for himself," they said.

### SLIDE 6



For a second time, the man appeared before the Pharisees to answer their questions about his blindness and how he had been healed. The man answered, "I was born blind. He healed my eyes. No one has ever been able to do that before. If this man were not from God, he couldn't have done it." The angered Pharisees replied, "Who are you to teach us, sinner!" And they threw him out of the synagogue.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 7



When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and explained to him, “I entered this world to judge—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.” Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, “Are you saying we’re blind?” Jesus replied, “If you were blind, you wouldn’t be guilty. But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.”