

General Church Education



FAMILY LESSON: JOHN 9 THE MAN BORN BLIND

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Family Lesson 33 - E

The Man Born Blind
John 9

FAMILY TALK:
THE MAN BORN BLIND
by the Rev. Donald Rose

This story from John, Chapter 9 is about someone who was born a certain way, born blind. Let's first notice some things in the story.

How quickly a little argument was settled. Some people were saying that a young man was the very same young man that used to sit and beg. "Look over there. Isn't that the same man we have seen so often, sitting blind by the roadside, stretching out his hands?"

"Oh, no," said others, "It just looks like him." Well, when the young man himself spoke, it put a fast ending to the difference of opinion. He just said, "I am he." And that was that. No point in arguing any more.

Other arguments would soon follow. People talked about how he could have been given sight. Some said that the Lord did wrong by healing him on the Sabbath Day. Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such miracles?" They were divided on this subject.

The parents of the young man were afraid to get into the argument. The young man was old enough to answer for himself. The Pharisees tried to get the young man into the argument about whether the Lord had done wrong or was a sinner. But the young man said, "**One thing I know, that though I was blind, now I can see.**"

Put yourself in his place. Wasn't that about the best thing that ever happened to him in his whole life? Never had he known what it was like to be able to see. Born blind, the only life he knew was that of a blind beggar. Now he could see. Wasn't that one thousand times more important to him than any argument? He probably said it pretty loud and with feeling. "**One thing I know.**"

Good people would have been very touched by hearing him say that. But amazingly, the Pharisees were *still* arguing. He probably raised his voice even more when he realized they were not even paying attention to the great and grand thing that had happened to him. "**Since the world began, it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.**"

They cast him out; but it is said that the Lord “found” him. The other place in the Word in which we see the Lord finding a man is John, Chapter 5, where the Lord found a man who had been healed. The Lord found him in the temple, probably giving thanks.

What a moment we have now. The Lord asks the young man, “**Do you believe in the Son of God?**” And the man says, “**Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?**” Don’t forget that wonderful picture. A man is standing there, using those eyes so recently healed, and looking directly at the Lord and asking sincerely that question. And he got the answer that the One he was seeing at that moment and talking to was the One to worship. And he said, “**I believe,**” and worshiped Him. A beautiful ending of a story that began with someone asking a question about someone who had been born blind.

Now, what of people who have the beautiful ending of getting to heaven but who are born somewhere they might never hear about the Lord? There is a chapter in the book *Heaven and Hell* that is all about people who are born where they will not be taught the truth. In a way, you could say they are born “blind.” There was a time before the Writings were given when people really thought if you were born where you could not learn about the Lord, you could not get to heaven. But *Heaven and Hell* tells us those people are “born” ignorant people, and their not knowing is “not their fault” (HH 318). It says, “**No man is born for hell.**”

The Lord provides religious beliefs even for people who have not yet heard about Him. For the Lord “**is love itself, and His love is to will the salvation of all**” (HH 318).

The Man Born Blind

John 9

LEVEL 1 – THE BLIND MAN HEALED

Parents:

To let your child experience what it is like to be blind, try tying a blindfold over his eyes. Lead him to the center of the room and let him try to find his way around. Offer him a familiar object or two to try to identify,



perhaps a cup or a pillow or a pencil. Ask him to tell you what color it is! Let him experiment with his balance by trying to stand on one foot or to sit down. If you have another person in the room, let them come up to him quietly and ask him to try to identify them.

When he has experienced the helplessness of the blind man, he will better understand the man's joy at being healed.

Lead him to a bowl of water, and let him dip his fingers in, then wet his eyes. Now take off the blindfold. Tell him how the Lord healed the man who had been blind *all his life*. Then the blind man could see the Lord even better than people who had always had sight.

Make two copies of the following picture.

One picture is for your child to color if he wishes.

Turn the page with the second picture over so that the picture is on the back. Give your pre-schooler a piece of cotton or paper towel with cooking oil on it. As he rubs it over the blank side, the picture of the man worshiping the Lord will become visible.

Note: This can be messy. The picture could be put on a piece of paper, towel or newspaper before it is oiled.



"Lord, I believe." (verse 38)

The Man Born Blind
John 9
LEVEL 2 – WATER AND MUD

Color the picture:



True or False
(Write T for True, and F for False)

- ___ In this story Jesus healed a man who could not hear.
- ___ Jesus put mud on the man's eyes.
- ___ Jesus told the man to go and wash in a river.
- ___ The Pharisees sent for the man's parents.
- ___ When Jesus said that He was the Son of God, the man believed Jesus and worshiped Him.

The Man Born Blind
John 9
LEVEL 3 – HEALING SICK PEOPLE

To see often means to understand.
When someone tells you something and you say, “I see,”
it means “I understand.”



The Lord Healed Sick People



When the Lord was in the world He healed people’s sick bodies. The man born blind needed to be healed. He was born blind. He couldn’t see.

The Lord healed him. He used saliva, and also told him to wash—both of these involved water. By means of this water, the Lord healed the man and he could then see.

The Lord Heals Us

The Lord heals us when we are “sick.” When we have feelings that are selfish and unkind, then it is like we are “sick” and need the Lord to heal us. He can help us get rid of those feelings so we can go to heaven.

We are like the blind man when we do not see what is true. The Lord uses “water” to heal us too—He uses the true teachings in His Word to open our minds so we can “see” the truth.

Application:

In the project on page 3, you see the blind man at the pool of Siloam. There is water in the pool, but as long as the man is blind, he cannot see it.

In the story the Lord says, "I am the light of the world." We need light in this world to see things. When it is absolutely dark and black, we cannot see anything around us. The blind man could see absolutely nothing, but the Lord healed him, and made his eyes able to receive light.

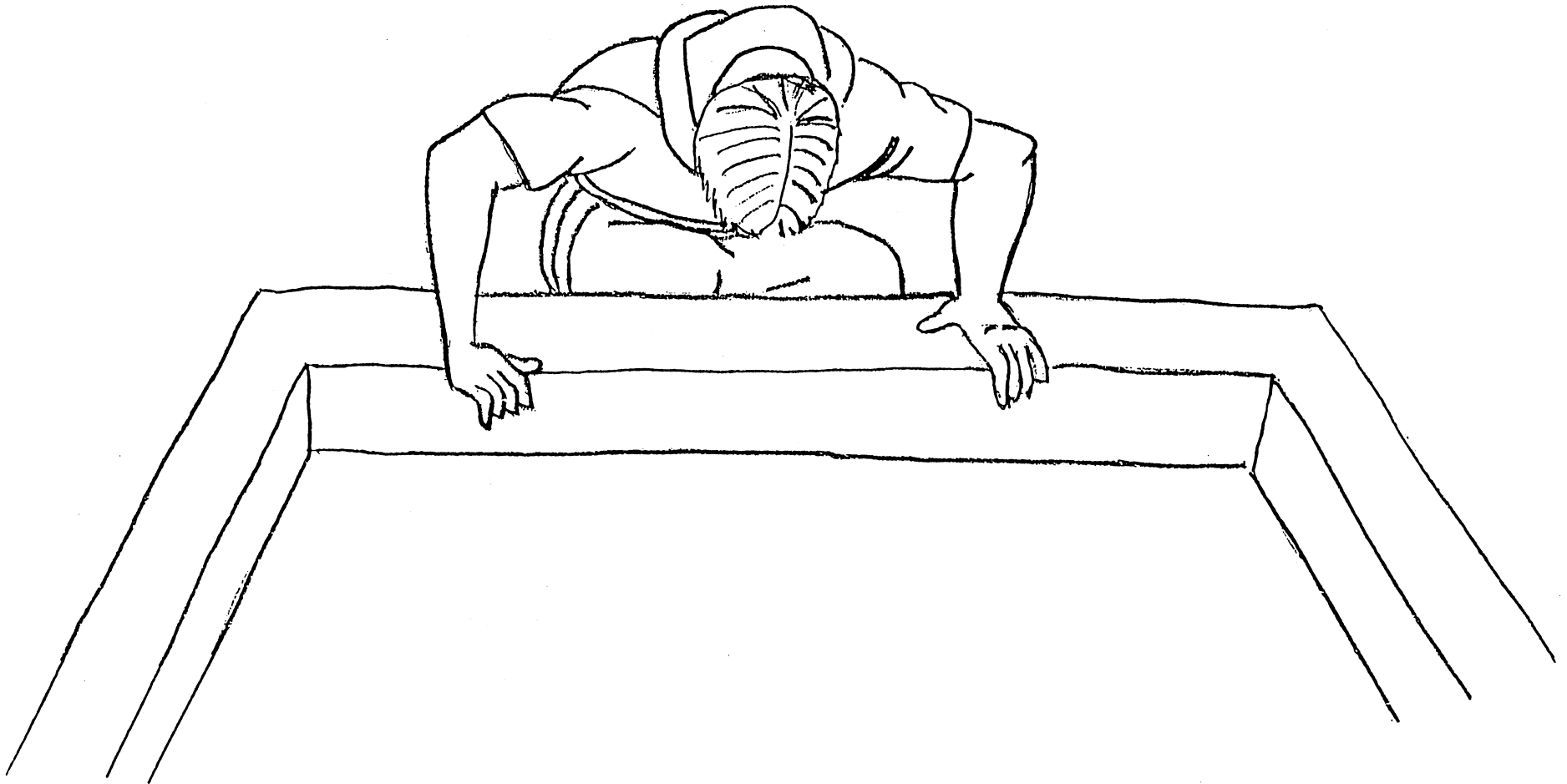
Directions:

1. Tape pages 3 and 4 together, with page 4 **behind** page 3 so the words on page four show through the pool of water on page 3.
2. Tape a piece of black paper over the pool, covering the water. All is blackness to the blind man.
3. When you lift the black paper you can see the water, just as he was able to see after washing his eyes.
4. Now add light from the Lord by holding the picture up to a window or lamp, and the writing can be seen even more clearly.

You have to have light from the Lord to see the truth, just as the blind man had to receive water from the Lord to be able to see.

The truth you see written on the paper is a quote from the story, written in both English and Greek. Greek is the language in which the part of the Word that this story comes from was originally written. So this shows how the first people who read this truth saw it.





I am the light of
the world

φως εἰμι τοῦ κόσμου

The Man Born Blind

John 9

LEVEL 4 – THE STORY OF THE BLIND MAN

Chapter 9 of the book of John tells a story through several conversations. Read it carefully and copy down here the things people say. Then you can make a play with the dialogue you have written. Perform the play with your family or friends, or simply read it. Or you could direct a play with brothers and sisters and friends playing the parts.

CHARACTERS:

JESUS	3rd Neighbor
Disciples of Jesus	A Pharisee
A Blind Man	Other Pharisees
1st Neighbor	Parents of the Blind Man
2nd Neighbor	

SCENE I *A Street in Jerusalem on the Sabbath.*

Blind Man sitting by the road. Enter Jesus and His disciples.

DISCIPLES:

JESUS:

Jesus stoops, spits and makes clay, anoints eyes of Blind Man. To Blind Man:

Exit Blind Man to right. Exit Jesus and disciples.

SCENE II *Later. Same street. Group of neighbors.*

Enter Blind Man, seeing.

1st NEIGHBOR:

2nd NEIGHBOR:

3rd NEIGHBOR:

BLIND MAN:

NEIGHBORS:

BLIND MAN:

NEIGHBORS:

BLIND MAN:

SCENE III

*In front of temple. Next day. Group of Pharisees.
Enter Blind Man, escorted by Neighbors.*

PHARISEES:

BLIND MAN:

SOME PHARISEES:

OTHER PHARISEES:
(commotion)

PHARISEES:

BLIND MAN:

(Pharisees and Neighbors murmur. Some neighbors go off. Return with Parents.)

PHARISEES:

PARENTS:

(Pharisees beckon to Man)

PHARISEES:

BLIND MAN:

PHARISEES:

BLIND MAN:

PHARISEES (*self-righteously*):

BLIND MAN:

PHARISEES:

(Pharisees cast Blind Man out)

SCENE IV

A street in Jerusalem some time later. Blind man is standing to left dejectedly. Group of Pharisees stand off to right. Enter Jesus from right, searching. He comes up to blind man.

JESUS:

BLIND MAN:

JESUS:

BLIND MAN:

(Blind Man falls down and worships Jesus)

JESUS:

PHARISEES *(Coming to join Jesus):*

PHARISEES:

THE END

(You may include up to John 10:5 in Jesus' last speech, if you wish - or you may end at the end of John 9.)

The Man Born Blind

John 9

LEVEL 5 – THE LORD AND HIS MIRACLES

Can you finish this phrase: The Lord said, “I am the _____ .”

Do you know that from the *Gospel of John*, you could finish that phrase seven different ways?

The Light of the World

The second of the “**I AM’s**” in this Gospel seems to be the most prominent one.

Read it in the 5th verse of chapter 9. Write it below:

“**I AM** _____.”

What does the Lord say in *John* chapter 8, verse 12?

“**I** _____ **AM** _____.”



The word “light” is a dramatic part of the verses at the very beginning of the *Gospel of John*. In verses 5-9 of the first chapter of John, the word “light” is used six times. Write these verses:

Read *John* 3:19 and then fill in the blanks:

“And this is the condemnation, that the _____ has come into the world, and men loved _____ rather than _____ , because their deeds were _____ .

Before filling in the list below see if you can remember other ways that the Lord described Himself. Then look up the verses for each “I AM” and fill in the answers.

1. I AM _____ (*John* 6:35)
 2. I AM _____ (*John* 6:51)
 3. I AM _____ (*John* 10:7)
 4. I AM _____ (*John* 10:11)
 5. I AM _____ (*John* 11:25)
 6. I AM _____ (*John* 14:6)
 7. I AM _____ (*John* 15:5)
-

Now complete the section on miracles on page 3.

Then, if you enjoy art work, you could make a drawing or collage:

1) to illustrate the different ways that the Lord describes Himself as “I AM”

OR

2) to illustrate the miracles that we are told about in the Gospel of John.

Miracles

Did you know that the healing of the man born blind is the sixth in a series of miracles in the gospel of John?



We notice that turning water to wine is called a “beginning” of miracles.
(Chapter 2, verse 11.)

Chapter 4, verse 54 says “This again is the second sign that Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee. Read verses 46 – 53 to find out which miracle was the “second sign.”

Now list the miracles in the order in which they appear in the gospel of John:

1. (John 2:1-11)
2. (John 4:46-53)
3. (John 5:2-9)
4. (John 6:4-13)
5. (John 6:16-21)
6. (John 9:1-15)
7. (John 11:1-45)