

**BLIND FROM BIRTH  
JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND**



**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES**



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**CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES**



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### BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES

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**Christ to the World Ministries** is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to sharing the gospel of Christ with the world through radio dramas and printed and oral studies based on Scripture. The printed lessons can be studied by one person or by a group.

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*Dear Friend,*

*I am glad that you are interested in studying the Bible. It is God's Word to us and in it, we find the way of salvation and guidance for daily living. The main theme of the Bible is God's love for us and how he expressed that love by Jesus Christ dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus arose from the grave and today He will save every person who puts his or her faith and trust in Him.*

*This study guide will help you gain a better understanding of the Bible. Open your heart to what God has for you through the study. I have prayed that your study will be life changing.*

*May God bless you richly,*

*Larry Alston  
Christ to the World Ministries*



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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a study about a blind man who sees and others who become “blind.” The story contains two miracles: the blind man received his sight and he also received spiritual sight as he received Christ as his Savior and Lord.

This Bible study will help you understand Jesus’ compassion, power and authority. It will help you to examine your spiritual vision for blind-spots and to remember that every person is important to God.

This study guide asks you to write in it. Don’t keep it clean and unmarked! When the guide asks you to make a response, don’t simply think of your response. Take time to write it down. Doing so helps internalize and reinforce your learning. Write from your heart. Only you will see what you write. As writer, I will work along with you as you complete your study. I will share with you my own responses to most of the questions and activities. This does not mean that my responses are any more correct than yours; it simply means that you will have the benefit of a fellow traveler walking beside you as you move through the study.

Keep your Bible before you as you complete the study. When you are asked to read a Scripture reference, take time to read it.

Ready? Then let’s get started.

**Begin your study with prayer. Make the following prayer your very own.**

*Dear God, please open your Word to me as I study. Speak to my heart. Help me obey your will for my life. Help me do what you want me to do. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.*

## THE SCRIPTURE

John 9

*1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

*3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” Jesus said, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

*6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. 7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.*

*8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some claimed that he was.*

*Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”*

*But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”*

*10 “How then were your eyes opened?” they demanded.*

*11 He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”*

*12 “Where is this man?” they asked him.*

*“I don’t know,” he said.*

*13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”*

16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.

17 Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. 19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. 21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

27 He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.

40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

## THE BACKGROUND AND SETTING

The baby is blind! Who sinned? Which one of you sinned? Questions! Questions! Poor mother, poor father. Many Jews believed a child born less-than-perfect happened because of sin. The parents might have sinned. Some even believed an unborn child could sin in its mother's womb.

Jewish medical practices in Jesus' day offered little hope for blindness. Folk medicine offered no remedy. Infection, leprosy, cataracts and old age were common causes of blindness. Some people were born blind. This study tells of such a man who was blind from birth.

Conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders had reached a critical point. The leaders rejected his claims and refused to accept him as the Messiah. The Pharisees gathered stones to kill him (John 8:59). But Jesus avoided them by slipping away from the Temple grounds.



As Jesus and his disciples walked along, they saw a blind man. Reflecting the common belief that all sickness and suffering resulted from someone's sin, the disciples asked Jesus: "*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?*" (John 9:2)

The disciples saw the blind man and engaged in theological speculation. Jesus saw him and engaged in a ministry of compassion and healing.

**Read John 9:3. Place a check by the answer Jesus gave the disciples.**

- 1. The blindness happened because of the man's sin.
- 2. The blindness happened because of some unknown reason.
- 3. The blindness happened so the glory and power of God could be shown.
- 4. The blindness happened because of the sin of the man's parents.
- 5. The blindness happened so the Pharisees could be shown powerless to help.

We do not know all the reasons for sickness and suffering. Jesus made clear that in this case, the man's blindness happened so the work of God could be displayed in his life. People would witness the glory and power of God.

Jesus called the disciples away from idle speculation to action and ministry.

**Read John 9:4. Then answer these questions.**

1. What do you think the terms *day* and *night* represent in this passage?
2. What did Jesus say they should be doing during the day?
3. What would happen at night?
4. Who sent Jesus?
5. What do you think Jesus meant when he said "*Night is coming, when no one can work?*"

Jesus used the terms day and night in a figurative way. Day represented the time and opportunity for service. He said they should be busy at work during this time of opportunity. They were to do the work of God, who sent Jesus. This meant doing things pleasing to God. Chief among these things involved ministry to other people. Night represented the closing of opportunity and a time when ministry could no longer be done. Jesus knew that he would be crucified and night would come for him. At death, night comes for everyone.

**Explain what you think Jesus meant by his statement in John 9:5.**

During the Feast of Tabernacles, light played a prominent part. Each evening several huge torches were ignited. During this time Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”* (John 8:12). He emphasized this truth again in John 9:5. Jesus is the spiritual light of the world. One who rejects Jesus embraces spiritual darkness.

Ministry to the blind man afforded an opportunity to do the work of God while it was day. No doubt the blind man lived a dreary life. He had never seen a sunrise or sunset. He had never seen birds or flowers. He had never seen his mother’s face. Unable to work, the man begged to support his meager existence.

## **JESUS HEALS THE MAN BORN BLIND**

Jesus demonstrated that he was the light of the world by giving the blind man physical sight. He spat on the ground and made mud of the dirt and saliva. He put this paste on the man’s eyes. The man did not protest what Jesus did. He must have recognized that here was a person with power and authority.



**Read John 9:7. Check the correct answer to complete the following sentence.**

**Jesus told the man:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ to open his eyes and see
- \_\_\_\_\_ to call his parents
- \_\_\_\_\_ to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam
- \_\_\_\_\_ to meet with the Pharisees
- \_\_\_\_\_ to go to the Temple

We wonder what the blind man thought when Jesus told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. This pool, located just inside the southeastern city wall of that time, is still used today to supply water. The pool was created by the construction of Hezekiah's tunnel in the eighth century B.C. The 583 yard tunnel diverted water from the Kidron valley outside the city wall into the city for use in case of an enemy attack.

The man obeyed. How long did it take the man to walk down the hill to the pool? Did someone help him? What did he think as he walked along? We are not told.

The word Siloam means "sent" (v. 7). The writer John uses a play on words to indicate the man was "sent" to the Pool of Siloam by one who was himself "sent."

The man came to the pool and washed the mud from his eyes. He looked up. Light! Light! The man could see! His eyes were opened. For the very first time in his life, the man could see.

The man went home, no doubt telling everyone he met that he could see. He created a commotion when he arrived home.

**Read John 9:8-13. Then read the following statements. Place a check by each true statement.**

- 1. The neighbors were not interested in the man who had been healed.
- 2. Some neighbors thought the man was the same person who had begged.
- 3. Other neighbors thought the man only looked like the blind man.
- 4. The neighbors rejoiced with the man.
- 5. The man insisted he was the one who had been blind.
- 6. The neighbors wanted to know how the man's eyes were opened.
- 7. The man told the neighbors that Jesus healed him.
- 8. The neighbors drove the man from their presence.

- 9. The neighbors wanted to know where the person was who had healed him.
- 10. The neighbors worshiped Jesus.
- 11. The neighbors brought the man to the Pharisees.

Statements two, three, five, six, seven, nine and eleven are true.

**Read again John 9:13-17.**

## **THE PHARISEES INVESTIGATE THE HEALING**

The religious leaders quizzed the man who had been blind. They wanted to know how he had received his sight (v. 15). The man told them very simply what had happened (v. 15). The Pharisees held different opinions.

Supply the missing words in the following sentences.

Some Pharisees said Jesus could not be from God because he did not observe the \_\_\_\_\_.

Other Pharisees said that such marvelous works could not be done by a \_\_\_\_\_.

The healed man said that Jesus was a \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus made mud to put on the man's eyes. That was "work" on the Sabbath. He healed, and that was not allowed on the Sabbath except for life-threatening conditions. In the eyes of some Pharisees, Jesus could not be from God because he did not properly observe the Sabbath. Other Pharisees said that such marvelous works could not be done by a sinner. The word sinner as used in this setting simply means one who didn't obey the scribal law. The healed man said that Jesus was a prophet.



**Read again John 9:18-23.**

The Jews sent for the man’s parents. They did not believe the healed man was the son born blind. They questioned the parents.

The Pharisees asked the parents two questions (v. 19). Write them here.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**The Pharisees caused the parents to feel: (Check all that apply.)**

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> afraid    | <input type="checkbox"/> angry    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> special   | <input type="checkbox"/> confused |
| <input type="checkbox"/> uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> grateful |

**Why do you think the parents told the Pharisees to question their son themselves (v. 22)?**

The parents most likely felt afraid, uncertain and confused when questioned by the Pharisees. The parents told the Pharisees to ask their son about his healing. They knew that those who acknowledged Jesus as the Christ were cast out of the synagogue. They were afraid.

Read John 9:24-34.

The Pharisees summoned the man a second time. They said that Jesus was a sinner and they questioned the man again (v. 24).

**What do you think the healed man might have been thinking as he was questioned? (Check each answer you select.)**

- I must agree with them.
- Jesus is not a sinner.
- They will harm me.
- I will say, “I believe.”
- I do not know who he is.

**Read John 9:25 and complete the verse below.**

“One thing I do \_\_\_\_\_. I was blind but now I \_\_\_\_\_!”

Perhaps all the thoughts above passed through the man’s mind as the Pharisees questioned him. But one thing he was sure of. He could say, “*One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!*”

The healed man refused to let the Pharisees intimidate him with their questions and insults. He knew he was blind and now he could see. He knew more about God than did the Pharisees. He said, “*If this man were not from God, he could do nothing*” (vs. 33).

The angry Pharisees threw the man out (v. 34).





The man had received his physical sight.  
Now he received his spiritual sight also.

## THE MAN BELIEVED IN JESUS

When Jesus heard they had thrown him out, he found him and said, “*Do you believe in the Son of Man?*” (v. 35). The man responded with a question.

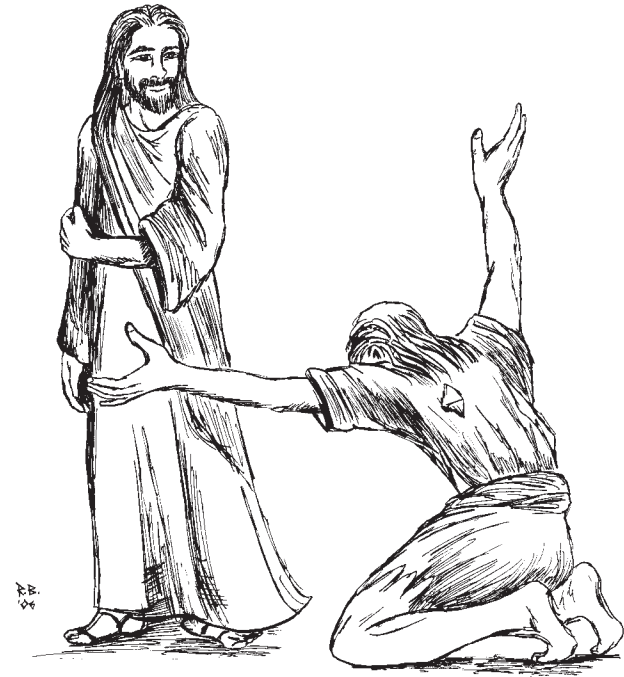
**Read John 9:36-38. Complete the following:**

The man asked: \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 36)?

Jesus answered: \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 37).

The man said: \_\_\_\_\_ (v.38).

Then the man \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (v. 38).



John 9 records bitter hatred by the Pharisees for Jesus. It continued to grow until they crucified him later.

## THE PHARISEES ARE BLIND

Jesus said what seemed to be a paradox, “*The blind will see and those who see will become blind*” (v. 39). But the Pharisees clearly understood what Jesus said. They asked, “*What? Are we blind too?*” (v. 40)

The man born blind went away that day seeing because he trusted Jesus. The Pharisees went away blinded by their refusal to accept Jesus.

# APPLICATION

Below are ten events in the story of the healing of the blind man. Read them, and then number the sentences in the order in which they occur

in the story. The first event is numbered for you.

- \_\_\_ The blind man's eyes were opened.
- \_\_\_ The Pharisees questioned the man.
- \_\_\_ Jesus made mud from saliva and put it on the blind man's eyes.
- \_\_\_ The Pharisees threw the man out from their presence.
- \_\_\_ The Pharisees questioned the man's parents.
- \_\_\_ The blind man washed in the Pool of Siloam.
- \_\_\_ The man acknowledged Jesus as Lord and worshiped him.
- \_\_\_ The Pharisees questioned the man a second time.
- 1   Jesus saw a blind man.
- \_\_\_ The man's neighbors asked the man how his eyes were opened.

Check your work by referring to John 9.

Here are five pictures of the events in John 9. Write in your own words the story the pictures tell.



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Jesus feels compassion for those who suffer. He responds with healing miracles. He taught his disciples that God has a purpose for every life when he heals the blind man.

**What does this miracle teach you about compassion for handicapped persons?**

**Why do you think Jesus healed on the Sabbath when he knew it would make the Jews angry?**

We should reach out in love and compassion toward handicapped persons and minister in Jesus' name. Jesus healed on the Sabbath because there was a need. The reaction of the Jews did not concern him.

Jesus said, "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me" (John 9:4).

**What does this verse tell you about the urgency of your work for him?**

**Now is the time to serve him by helping others. Do it now!**

**List some kindnesses you can show every day to let others know you care about them.**

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The Pharisees "hurled insults" at the man and threw him out (John 9:28).

**How should I react if someone insults me because of my faith?**

If a friend or acquaintance asks how I know Jesus is the Son of God I will say:

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**Write on a separate sheet of paper how you came to “see Jesus.” Who helped you? When did it happen? Read it every day for a week.**

The man born blind now can see and worships Jesus with “seeing eyes.” The unbelieving Pharisees who can see reject the Son of God and are the spiritually blind.

**How is your spiritual vision? Is it 20-20? What are some “spiritual blind spots” in your life?**

**When I discover “spiritual blind-spots” in my life I can improve my vision by: (Check your answers with an “x.”)**

- reading the Bible
- sharing my faith
- talking to God
- listening to (obeying) him
- attending Bible study

**All of the above can improve spiritual vision.**

**Today, I can open my eyes to see someone who: (Check your answers.)**

- needs a kind word
- needs a smile
- needs food or clothes
- needs encouragement
- needs to know Jesus

**Commit this Bible verse to memory:**

*“One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see” (John 9:25).*

**Summarize in a sentence or two the main thing God has taught you in your study.**

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**Pray that God will open your eyes to see his purpose for your life today, tomorrow, next week, next year.**

## **GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY**

**You can lead your family or a group of friends and neighbors or perhaps a church group in this study of Jesus healing the man born blind. Doing so will strengthen your own life, and God will use you to be a blessing to others. The following suggestions will help you lead a small group study.**

**Each person in the group has contributions to make. Each person should take part in the discussion. No one should dominate the time together.**

**Begin the study with prayer.**

**Read the story of “Blind from Birth” in John 9.**

**Tell the story of what happened in your own words, using the five drawings as visual aids. Take your time and show the drawings to the group as you tell the story. Answer any questions group members may ask.**

**Use with the group the questions and activities under “Application.” Lead each group member to respond.**

**Lead the group in memorizing John 9:25. Ask volunteers to explain the verse in their own words.**

**Read the section “Responding to God” to the group. Pray the prayer for yourself and help each person to pray it for himself or herself.**

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

Now that you have studied God's Word, he wants you to respond.

The Bible teaches that you are a sinner. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23). *“There is no one righteous, not even one* (Rom. 3:10).

But God loves you and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sin. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16). *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Rom. 5:8).

You receive Christ as your Savior by turning from your sin and placing your faith and trust in him. *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out”* (Acts 3:19). *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”* (Rom. 5:8).

### **Pray this prayer to God:**

*“Dear God, I know that I'm a sinner. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and is alive today. I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. I receive Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”*

## **Welcome into God's family!**

Share with others that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask for baptism by immersion in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis. Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.

### **Notes:**