



- Week 1** – Sunday 22 February - Jesus is tested in the wilderness.
- Week 2** – Sunday 1 March - Jesus Teaches Nicodemus
- Week 3** – Sunday 8 March - The Samaritan woman
- Week 4** – **Sunday 15 March - Jesus heals a man born blind.**
- Week 5** – Sunday 22 March - The Death of Lazarus
- Week 6** – Sunday 29 March *Palm Sunday* - The betrayal, judgement and death of Jesus
- Holy Week: (Monday 30 March to Saturday 4 April)**

Week 4 – Sunday 15 March

HOME GROUPS AND CLASSES GUIDE:

1. Open in Worship and Prayer: this is to invite God into the meeting. For example, you can light a candle, sing together, or use a YouTube Hymn or song.
2. Open your Bibles and read the Bible verses for this week (take turns?) see below.
3. Reflect on the Bible verses and the reflection written by a Minister or Lay Preacher.
4. Connect with each other and take the reflection deeper by answering the Questions.
5. Works out: What have we learned that we can apply in our lives in this session? Keep each other accountable for promises made or important steps taken. Pray for and over each other (after taking prayer requests).

WORSHIP SONG:

CeCe Winans: Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) https://youtu.be/hjdAzMHZMng?si=LKw7FAg_UCqE6jIy

BIBLE READINGS: eek 4 – Sunday 15 March - Jesus heals a man born blind

First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
I Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind

John 9 New International Version

9 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,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works 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 After saying 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

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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 asked. 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.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing 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 had 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 perform such signs?” So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then 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 They 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 Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah 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 by telling the truth,” 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 person 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.

Spiritual Blindness 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?” ⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Written by: REV ZAMANI SIKUPELA

The healing of the man born blind is a profound testament to Jesus as the “Light of the World”, transforming darkness into sight and brokenness into divine purpose. The passage teaches that Jesus is the “Light of the World”, revealing God’s power and glory rather than punishing sin. The miracle highlights the transformation from spiritual darkness to faith, exposes the spiritual blindness of prideful religious leaders, and demonstrates that suffering can be an opportunity for God to work. Jesus’ compassion brings light into the darkest, most hopeless situations, moving individuals from a life of begging to a life of witnessing to the power of God.

From the passage we pick up the following:

Divine Purpose over Blame: When the disciples asked if the blindness was caused by his own sin or his parents, Jesus rejected the idea that suffering is always a direct punishment. He clarified that it was not punishment but an opportunity for God’s works to be displayed. The man’s blindness was not caused by his or his parents’ sin, but so that “the works of God might be displayed in him”. God can use our most difficult trials as a stage for His glory.

A Personal Miracle: Jesus approached the beggar, creating mud with his saliva – symbolizing a new act of creation. By mixing saliva with dust to make clay, Jesus echoed the original creation of man from the dust of the earth. Then he instructed him to wash in the pool of Siloam, which means “sent”. Again, we learn that Jesus did not heal him instantly, but he commanded him to go wash. Healing happens after “the test of obedience”. The man’s physical sight was granted only after he took a step of faith and obeyed. Faith requires action.

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The Journey of Faith: After obeying and receiving sight, the man’s understanding of Jesus grew from calling him “*the man named Jesus*” to identifying him as a prophet, and finally, worshipping him as the Son of God.

Spiritual vs Physical Sight: While the healed man gained physical sight and spiritual belief, the religious leaders (Pharisees) who claimed to see were revealed to be spiritually blind.

Jesus defines his mission to bring sight to the spiritually blind while exposing those who claim to see but are blinded by pride. The narrative encourages us to look for God’s glory in our trials, knowing that He can turn our darkest moments into a display of His power. We must also let go of our “*blindness*” (pride, fear, sin) and trust in Jesus, the Light of the World, to transform our lives.

GROUP QUESTIONS :

1. Based on this story, how would you respond to someone asking: Why do bad things happen?
2. How can God be glorified through affliction, as seen in this narrative?
3. What role does obedience play in the journey of faith?
4. Why is pride such an enemy of grace?

DAILY MEMORY VERSE AND PRAYER

MONDAY, March 16 Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9–19; Acts 9:1–20

Memory Verse: “*Rise up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.*” — Acts 9:6

Prayer: God of light, meet me on my road and turn my darkness into sight. Give me courage to obey Your call and follow where You lead.

TUESDAY, March 17 Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14–21; Colossians 1:9–14

Memory Verse: “*He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.*” — Colossians 1:13

Prayer: Delivering God, thank You for bringing me into Your light. Fill me with wisdom and strength to live a life worthy of You.

WEDNESDAY, March 18 Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17–22; Matthew 9:27–34

Memory Verse: “*Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*” — Isaiah 60:1

Prayer: Lord of mercy, open my eyes to see Your work around me. Let Your light shine through my life for others to see.

THURSDAY, March 19 Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1–3; 2:8–3:3; Revelation 10:1–11

Memory Verse: “*Mortal, eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.*” — Ezekiel 3:1

Prayer: Speaking God, fill me with Your word until it shapes my life. Give me boldness to proclaim Your truth with faithfulness.

FRIDAY, March 20 Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10–16; Revelation 11:15–19

Memory Verse: “*As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked.*” — Ezekiel 33:11

Prayer: Merciful Lord, thank You for Your desire to forgive and restore. Teach me to turn fully toward You and live in hope.

SATURDAY, March 21 Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8–15; Luke 24:44–53

Memory Verse: “*You are witnesses of these things.*” — Luke 24:48

Prayer: Risen Lord, open my mind to understand Your promises. Send me out with joy to bear witness to Your saving work.

FAMILY TIME BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN’S PASTOR

WEEK 4 “Learning to See”

Scripture: John 9 (NIV)

Season Focus: Lent – letting Jesus open our eyes

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1. Opening Connection (2–3 minutes)

Start with something playful:

Cover one eye. Now try to look around the room. Let everyone try for a few seconds.

Ask:

- Was that easy or hard?
- What would it be like to live your whole life like that?

Lent link:

Lent helps us notice the ways we don't see clearly. About God, others, or ourselves.

2. Read the Story (Interactive)

Before reading, tell younger kids: "Listen for three things:

 Seeing

 People arguing

 Jesus caring"

You don't have to read all of John 9 word-for-word.

You can **summarise** key parts and read verses:

- 1–7 (the healing)
- 13–17 (questions)
- 35–38 (Jesus and the man)

Question:

- Was this man blind because he did something wrong? (No!)

3. What This Story Is Really About

This story isn't just about eyes. It's about **hearts** and **seeing the truth**.

Jesus heals a man but the people who *think* they see best are actually the most blind.

4. Three Kinds of Blindness (Lent Lens)

1. Physical Blindness – "He couldn't see"

- **For kids:**
The man needed help, and Jesus noticed him.
- **For teens:**
Jesus starts by saying suffering is not a punishment from God.

Questions:

- Kids: Who helps you when something is hard?
- Teens: How do we sometimes blame people for things that aren't their fault?

Lent reminder:

Lent invites compassion, not judgement.

2. Religious Blindness – "They knew the rules"

The leaders were more upset about **rules being broken** than a life being changed.

- **For kids:**
They forgot that God cares about people.
- **For teens:**
They valued being right more than being loving.

Questions:

- Kids: What matters more—rules or kindness?
- Teens: When do we hide behind rules, beliefs, or opinions instead of love?

Lent reminder:

Lent asks us to choose mercy over comfort.

3. Growing Sight – “I was blind, now I see”

The healed man doesn't know everything, but he knows **Jesus changed him.**

- **For kids:**
He told the truth about what Jesus did.
- **For teens:**
Faith grows step by step. Certainty isn't required but honesty is.

Questions:

- Kids: What has Jesus helped you with?
- Teens: How has your understanding of God changed as you've grown?

Lent reminder:

Lent is about becoming more honest, not more perfect.

5. Big Lent Truth (All Ages – Say Together)

Leader: “*Jesus opens...*”

Family: “**...our eyes.**”

Leader: “*Jesus cares about...*”

Family: “**...people, not just rules.**”

Leader: “*Jesus helps us see...*”

Family: “**...with our hearts.**”

6. Simple Lent Activity (Choose One)

Option A: Wash & See

Have a small bowl of water.

Say:

“*Jesus used mud and water to bring healing.*”

Let each person gently dip a finger and say quietly:

- “Jesus, help me see...”

This can be:

- “...others kindly”
- “...myself truthfully”
- “...You more clearly”

Option B: Sight Check

Ask everyone to finish one sentence:

- “I was blind to ____, but Jesus is helping me see ____.”

(Younger kids can draw it.)

7. Closing Prayer

Jesus, Thank You that You see us fully and love us deeply.

Open our eyes during this Lent season.

Help us see people with kindness, truth, and grace.

Amen.

Optional Lent Follow-Up (Family Practice)

This week, challenge the family to:

- Notice someone who is often ignored
- Choose kindness over being right
- Say, “I don't know yet” instead of pretending