

PURSUE

BUILDING FOR PEOPLE. BELIEVING FOR MORE.

4

Leader Guide

Pursue Those in Darkness (The Blind Man)

March 13, 2022

Main Passage: John 9:1-38

Theological Theme

Ultimately, Jesus's mission was to give God glory. God's glory shines brightly in both the blaze of His judgment and wonder of His mercy. Whether a person believes or not, they will glorify God, either in their joyous rescue or just condemnation.

Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever been given advice that you refused to heed?
- ❓ Did you later regret ignoring it? Why or why not?

In the passage today, we see the Rescuer who came to earth to save sinners from an eternal grave. Yet, some refuse to believe they are in trouble while others cling to Christ as if their life depends upon it (and it does!).

1. The Mission of Christ (John 9:1-12)

The main theme of John 9 is Jesus's work and the way people respond to it. At the beginning of the chapter, we read a significant statement Jesus made about Himself and His mission. He said, "We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (vv. 4-5).

2. Self-Righteous Scoffers (John 9:13-34)

The Pharisees were well known in Jesus's day as experts in the law of Moses. They were seen as religious leaders and revered as men of God. The problem was that many of them were puffed up in their own eyes. They knew the law of Moses better than anyone and even added their own laws on top of those laws. All of this made them prideful and self-righteous. They loved the praise of man and they believed they enjoyed the favor of God.

3. The Humble Repent and Believe (John 9:35-38)

The man who was born blind was humble. Physical infirmities and trials have a way of helping people realize their neediness. The man born blind and the Pharisees were in the same sinking, sin-soaked boat. There was no difference between them in terms of their spiritual condition and inability to rescue themselves. Yet, they were totally different in their responses to Christ, the One who had come to rescue them. The Pharisees had convinced themselves that they weren't in the sinking boat. They had built a system of law-keeping that had totally blinded them to their desperate need. The only thing more dangerous than being in a sinking boat is to convince yourself that you aren't in one at all.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?

- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?

- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?

- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?

- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)

- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC