First Baptist Friendswood Students

Daily Discipleship — November 1-6

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

CHRIST CONNECTION

Satan has blinded the eyes of the world to the truth of God, offering false hope in the things of the world while also opposing God through its powers and influences. Jesus came so that the eyes of the blind might be opened to the truth. All who trust in Him find true hope in God's kingdom.

OUT OF DARKNESS — JOHN 9

WE ARE SPIRITUALLY BLIND — JOHN 9:1-7,13-16,24-34

1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his
parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the
works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is
coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said these
things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud 7 and
said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus
made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said
to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from
God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there
was a division among them. . . .

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know
that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that
though I was blind, now I see." 26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He
answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also
want to become his disciples?" 28 And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.
29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The
man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.
31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens
to him. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If
this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would
you teach us?" And they cast him out.

JESUS GIVES US SIGHT — JOHN 9:35-41

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He
answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who
is speaking to you." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this
world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees near
him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would
have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

THEOLOGY CONNECTION — WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit's work in the life of a Christian begins in the work of salvation in bringing a person to faith in Jesus and is continued through the work of sanctification in helping the Christian to become progressively more like Jesus throughout the course of his or her life. He also empowers and indwells believers, intercedes on their behalf, and equips them with special gifts for the service of God's kingdom. He is the Comforter to the believer and aids us in properly interpreting the Bible.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WE ARE SPIRITUALLY BLIND — JOHN 9:1-7,13-16,24-34

• Why didn't the Pharisees rejoice over the miracle? What mattered more to them? How do we fall into this mindset too?

• What does it mean to be spiritually blind? How do we get spiritual sight?

• If you were the man Jesus healed from blindness, would it matter to you how or when it happened? Why or why not?

JESUS GIVES US SIGHT — JOHN 9:35-41

• What would your response be if you realized you were standing right in front of Jesus? How did the blind man respond?

• How can having everything we want or need make it hard for us to see how much we need Jesus? How can being in need be a gift?

• Read verse 41. What does Jesus's response show us about accountability when it comes to sin?

Who in your life is spiritually blind and needs Jesus? What can you do to help them see Jesus?

LIFE CONNECTION

Have you ever struggled to believe something because you couldn't see it with your own eyes? Whether or not you realize it, you already believe in many things you can't see. You can't see gravity or wind with your eyes, but you see and feel their effects. Sometimes, our spiritual sight—our ability to see and know the Lord—is limited because we don't position ourselves to see. Are the friends you've surrounded yourself with helping you to see and believe in God, or are they encouraging you to walk in darkness? Does the content you watch and listen to help open your eyes to truth, or does it feed you worldly ideas instead? Jesus desires for us to know Him. He desires for us to live with clear vision. When you draw closer to the Lord and position yourself to see Him, He opens your eyes; He helps you see the world and other people the way He sees them. Here's the truth: You can choose spiritual blindness. You can position yourself to stay in the dark. But if you draw near to Jesus, He promises to come close and help you see.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND — PSALM 139:1-6

Have you ever felt alone in a crowded room? Sometimes we feel like we don't fit in, that people don't understand us, that if we were truly known, no one would like us. We might compare ourselves to others who seem to have it together—who are smarter, funnier, more popular than us. They have more money, more style, more opportunity. We can often feel alone, forgotten, and dismissed. But God always sees us. He knows us. And despite knowing all of our sins and flaws, He loves us still.

In this week's main passage, Jesus saw the blind man as He and His disciples were passing by. This man had been blind from birth, which in Jewish tradition, meant that his blindness was likely the consequence of sin, so he was shunned and forgotten. To survive, he was forced to beg. But even engulfed in a crowd of people, Jesus saw the blind man and personally went to him. He had not forgotten him. He knew who he was and why he was there—to reveal God's glory.

In today's passage in Psalm 139, David acknowledged that the Lord knows us intimately. He knows everything about us. He knows where we are, where we're going, and even what we're going to say before we say it. He knows our hearts and our minds. He knows our personality quirks, our deepest hurts, and our greatest fears. He knows our desires, our dreams, and our greatest hopes. He knows it all. He knows you. All of you.

No one knows us like God does. He created us, formed us, and continues to shape us for His glory. His intimate knowledge of us comforts us when we do feel alone, forgotten, and dismissed. And we can trust that He sees us—all of us—and loves us deeply.

• What sins, flaws, fears, or comparisons do you try to hide from others? What about from God?

• How are you encouraged by God's intimate knowledge of you?

PRAY

Lord, I know You see me. You know me, and You love me. You see what so many others do not. Remind me when I feel alone that You are right here with me.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD — PSALM 139:7-12

Statistically, most violent crimes happen at night because darkness offers concealment for the offenders. That's why one of the first methods of crime prevention is to illuminate the area you're trying to protect. Light deters crime because light exposes what darkness hides.

We continue today in David's psalm to learn that not only does God know us thoroughly, but He is everywhere. The theological term for this is "omnipresent," which means that God is in all places at the same time. David asked, "Where shall I flee from your presence?" (v. 7). The truth—we can't. We see this truth play out in the very beginning, when Adam and Eve sinned and ran in shame to hide from the Lord (Gen. 3:8-9). The Lord called out to them, not because He couldn't find them, but to draw them out of hiding and to restore them.

Jesus called Himself "the light of the world" (John 9:5). Because He is the Light, we can't hide in darkness. All those sins we think we're getting away with in secret will come to light. A relationship with "the light of the world" means that His presence will pierce any darkness in us and reveal what is hidden—like an LED floodlight into our hearts. Proverbs says, "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy" (28:13). Can we hide our sin, our shame, our mistakes from Jesus? Absolutely not. So, we confess them—not because He doesn't know—but because through confession and repentance, He brings us healing. David rejoiced, "Your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me" (v. 10). While God knows when we sin, knows what we try to hide, knows our shame, He still holds on to us and leads us in His light. Just as we saw in this week's passage with the blind man, Jesus is the Light that brings healing, hope, and salvation to a dark and blinded world.

• What dark parts of your heart is the "light of the world" revealing to you?

• How has confession and repentance brought healing and hope to you? How have you seen this in others?

PRAY

Jesus, shine Your light on my sins. Lead me to repentance, healing, and hope because these can only be found in You.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH — PSALM 139:13-16

Defective. Broken. Damaged. All words that the blind man from this week's main passage probably heard and felt about himself. While you may not have the same physical issues as the blind man, you've probably had moments where you felt like him. Perhaps you've felt unworthy, incapable, weak, imperfect, or just not enough. Comparing ourselves to others is easy, especially with social media, but we must measure our worth against the truth of God's Word—and He tells us we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (v. 14).

Continuing in the psalm, David said that God created and knew him (and us) from the very beginning. He knit all of our atoms and particles together, constructed our DNA and genes, and infused us with our personalities, talents, and strengths. You are a masterpiece, fashioned by the hand of the God of the universe!

Maybe you need to know today that God created you on purpose. You are not a mistake. You are not an accident. God had a plan when He created you. Your days were written down and outlined before you were ever even created. The blind man probably had several days of asking God, "Why me?" He may have felt like a mistake—God's accident. But we know from John 9 that while he might have felt broken, God used him so "that the works of God might be displayed in him" (v. 3). This man was created with a purpose to bring glory to God and to draw others to Jesus. The day of his healing, recorded in the Bible for so many people to read, was planned and written in God's book before the blind man was ever born. Likewise, God made you on purpose for His purposes. You were made to bring glory to God and to draw others to Jesus as well—so that God's works can be displayed in you!

• How do you compare yourself to others?

• Does knowing that God made you on purpose change the way you view yourself? The way you see others?

PRAY

Lord, You have known and loved me since You put me together—before I was even born. When I lose sight of Your purpose for me, draw me back to You and remind me of Your perfect plan.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH — PSALM 139:23-24

Have you heard of a "blind spot"? A blind spot is when something obstructs your vision. If you've learned to drive, you probably know that checking the blind spots of your vehicle is a necessary step before backing up or changing lanes. Did you know that everyone actually has a blind spot in their vision? In each eye, where the retina connects to our optic nerve, our field of vision is obstructed. But we don't notice because our brain fills in the missing visual information. So, even though we think we can see everything in front of us, we actually don't!

David wrapped up this psalm with a bold prayer. He asked God to search him and test him. David understood that he had blind spots. He knew that he was sinful, and he humbly pleaded with the Lord to find anything offensive in him because "the heart is deceitful above all things" (Jer. 17:9). The Pharisees from the main lesson this week had huge blind spots. Jesus gave a blind man sight, yet they could not see who He was. But Jesus came—as He told the blind man—"that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind" (John 9:39). While the blind man saw the long-awaited Messiah, they could not. They were blind to Him. Our hearts, our feelings, our brains will often lie to us. Sin has taken what should have been perfect and warped it, but through a relationship with Jesus, we are made new. And one day, our blind spots won't be there anymore. But until then, we must ask the Lord, like David, to show us what we're missing. As uncomfortable as it may be to have our eyes opened to our sin, we must invite Jesus into our hearts and minds to remove the offensive ways (our sin) and make us more like Him. Walking with Jesus isn't just a prayer and an aisle walk but a daily relationship with Him, where He knows us and we get to know Him more intimately. He removes blind spots in our lives so that He can use us and lead us in His ways.

• What are some blind spots that the Lord has shown you?

• Spend some time praying David's prayer, making it your own. What does this prayer invite God to do within you?

PRAY

Search my heart, Lord. Remove any blind spots in my life so that I may see You clearly, and "lead me in the way everlasting."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH — 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6

We are often surprised by the disbelief of the Pharisees toward Jesus when we read about their interactions in the Gospels. Why? Because these men had spent their entire lives studying and teaching Scripture. They knew the words of the Old Testament backward and forward. They knew all 300-plus prophecies about Jesus's coming. They had the answer key right in front of them and still managed to fail the exam. They should have known! But they didn't.

Today's passage explains why. Satan, "the god of this world," blinds the minds of unbelievers and keeps them from seeing the gospel. If you are a believer, your spiritual eyes have been opened and you have seen the light of the gospel. You have been given "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God" (v. 6).

So, what do we do with this knowledge? With this light? We shine it in the darkness so that others can see the Light—Jesus. Paul reminds us that we have been shown mercy, and because of that, we have the responsibility to bring that knowledge to others. We have been given a ministry of being light-bearers. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commissioned us to go and carry His good news of salvation into the world. And He promised to go with us! The Pharisees had the Light of the world right in front of them, yet they were so consumed and blinded by laws and rituals that they missed Him. The reality we sometimes want to ignore is that those who don't believe and confess Jesus as Lord will perish; they'll be separated from God for eternity. So, light-bearer, go and shine His light in dark places, share the hope of the gospel, watch Jesus remove the veil of blindness from the lost!

• What emotions does being a "light-bearer" bring up for you? How does knowing Jesus promises to be with us comfort you?

• Do you feel the responsibility to share Jesus with the lost? Who do you need to share it with now?

PRAY

Lord, thank You for Your light and the ministry to share it with others. Help me be a bold and courageous light-bearer for You!