# Gospel of John Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## John Chapter 9

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:* 9:1-12, this is the core story of a blind man being healing by Jesus. I recommend keeping the focus here
* 9:13-34, this section describes the interaction between the Pharisees and the blind man. The focus of this section is more on the Sabbath and threats from the Pharisees. If you wanted to include this section I’d suggest paraphrasing it and only reading the important phrases.
* 9:35-41, after being healed and thrown out by the Pharisees, Jesus comes to the blind man, who sees Jesus with his own eyes for the first time and responds by calling Jesus “Lord” and proclaiming his belief. The blind man then immediately begins worshipping Jesus.
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| Possible main point(s):* “This happened so that the power of God might be displayed” (v.3)
* Jesus brings light to our blindness
* Karma or Christ? Problems because of karma/sin or because Christ wants to work in your life
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus is the light of the world (v.5)
* Jesus healed a man born blind, he is more than simply a human (v.7)
* Jesus is the only one in this story to not declare anyone a sinner (see vv. 2, 24, 34)
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| What this has to do with our life:* The man simply did what Jesus told him to do... Do what Jesus says (v.7)
* The man simply said what happened to him when he encountered Jesus... He didn’t have a well worked out theology of Jesus, it started with an experience (vv.11, 25)
* Our lives might change so much when we encounter Jesus that others may have a hard time recognizing us (vv.8-9)
* Bad events aren’t always tied to our sins and mistakes. There are consequences for actions but there is not a direct connection/correlation between our sins and problems that we face (v.3)
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| Relevant technical details:* “Rabbi” (v.2) = A teacher, typically formally trained, but many regularly called Jesus this though he did not have the formal rabbinic training, people simply recognized Jesus’ masterful teaching
* “Pharisees” (v.13) = Jewish religious elite, their specific emphasis was on keeping all 613 of the rules and laws found in the Old Testament (and more) [see jewfaq.org/613.htm for reference!]
* “Prophet” (v.17) = Technically a “seer” (one who is able to “see” things others don’t see about God) who is able to speak on behalf of God. In the OT many prophets also did miracles, thus in this story the blind man calls Jesus a “prophet” more related to the miracle than to any prediction that came true.
* “Disciples of Moses” (v.28) = Moses was the one who delivered the 10 Commandments and then entire Old Testament law, as stated this is what the Pharisees were all about: *every* single law.
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| Possible illustrations:* Spit and mud... You will instantly get everyone’s attention instantly if you start making mud with your own spit (maybe have a glass of water to help you moisten your mouth). The illustration could be used to communicate that Jesus can work in very surprising ways (perhaps tell an introduction story about how God has worked in surprising ways in your life).
* Blindness... Blindfold yourself or another person. Have them explain what it is like to be blind for a little while.
* Light... Similarly to the blindfold, instead turn the lights off in the room and talk about living in the “dark”. Then either turn on a flashlight or all the lights to talk about how Jesus is the light (of the world) and shows us what life is all about (and what we otherwise can miss for our entire lives).
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

John 9 (NIV84)

*Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind*

**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 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.

*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 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.

*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.