

## Healing the blind man - Growth Group Study

### John Malcolm - 15 November 2020

#### Read Zechariah 14:7, Isaiah 9.2 John 1.1-3 and John 8.12

John places this story following Jesus' time at the feast of tabernacles. The feast included the dramatic illumination of the temple – a festival of light.

Can you think of times in the Old Testament when light was a key theme?

Why is the metaphor of light so important to John?

What does this image of light tell us about Jesus?

#### Read John 9.1-7

Take a moment to imagine yourself in the place of this blind man.

What do you think his life might have been like?

Why do you think he was begging?

Jesus' disciples assumed he was blind either because he or his parents had sinned. The man may have wondered, *What did I do to deserve this?* Later the authorities say, *You were steeped in sin from birth.*

Does this type of reasoning/questioning linking sin and health go on in our day?

How does Jesus respond to the disciples' question?

Does the man's blindness mean God had made him suffer just so Jesus could do a miracle?

#### Read Luke 4.18-19

What do you think Jesus meant when he said, *we must do the work of him who sent me?*

How does this link in with Old Testament prophecy and Jesus' understanding of who he was?

#### Read John 9.13-34

What were the reactions of:

The man's neighbours

The man's parents

The authorities

Why do you think his neighbours and the authorities doubt his identity?

Why do you think they were not celebrating this wonderful miracle?

Why was this man willing to go "eye to eye" with the authorities? How does he express courage when faced with their threats?

How might their claim to be disciples of Moses have influenced the authorities?

**Read John 9.35-41**

Why did Jesus look for the man, what was the purpose of this second encounter?

Some people note the way the man's view of Jesus develops from being a man (vs 11), to being a prophet (vs 17) to finally calling Jesus Lord (vs 38) and worshipping him. What do you think about this?

How did your view of Jesus develop?

Jesus not only gave this man sight, he also gave him life – what does this teach us about Jesus' care for people?

**There is a lot to take from this story – what other aspects of this would you like to question or highlight?**

**For reflection:**

Who do you more easily identify with: the man who believed, the neighbours who doubted or the authorities who opposed Jesus?

Consider a time when Jesus brought light into your life, how did that help you?