**Growth Group Bible Study**

“Encountering Jesus”

Encountering the Sight-Giver

Lesson 7

February 18, 2018

**Reading** John 9:1-41

**Opening Questions**

1. Have you ever been in a dark cave or similar situation where you couldn’t see at all? How did not being able to see impact your actions, thoughts, emotions?

2. Why is it that sometimes we notice the astounding and beautiful things around us (mountains, sky, a child’s smile, selfless acts, etc.) and other times we totally miss them? What are some of the distractions that ‘blind’ us to the wonder of life?

**Study**

1. What does the disciples’ question in verse 2 reveal about their theological assumptions? Why would they come to this conclusion? What does it reveal about their hearts?

2. What reason does Jesus give for the man being born blind? Do you think this is an appropriate response to give to everyone who suffers? Or is it a one-time answer to a specific person? Why or why not?

3. How does this healing bring light to the world and display the works of God?

 (cf. vs5) What does it tell us about the Father, and about Jesus?

4. Throughout the story, how is it clear that the blind man recognized his need? How did this influence his response to Jesus?

5. What is the neighbors’ response in verses 8-13? Are their doubts necessarily a hindrance for them coming to believe in Jesus? Do we know what ended up happening with them?

6. What does the response of the man’s parents reveal about their hearts in verses 18-23? Why were they afraid to advocate for Jesus?

7. What characterized the condition of the Pharisees’ hearts throughout this story? What are some of the ways that heart condition showed up in the way they treated the blind man and Jesus?

8. How was pride and prejudice a major hindrance to accepting the obvious work of Christ? How do pride and prejudice hinder our own responses to the work of Christ?

9. What did Jesus have to say about the Pharisees in Matthew 23:15-17, and how do we see this displayed in this story?

10. Why do you think there is such a strong connection between understanding neediness and being willing to accept Jesus and His work? What are some other instances in the Bible where needy people seem most likely to believe in Christ?

**Application**

1. Do you find it easy to admit neediness (at any level)? Why is it so hard to admit need?

2. How does admitting need open us up to both seeing and being changed by the work of God in our lives? What practical things can we do to help ourselves recognize our neediness?

3. Do you consciously have eyes that are on the lookout for God’s work in your everyday life? What does it look like to have eyes that search for the work of God? How might that outlook change the way you think, feel, and act throughout your days?

4. This week, try praying this simple prayer each day: “God, I need you. I believe you are working. Help me to see your hand at work, and to enter into the work you have prepared for me to do today.” How might this prayer impact what your day looks like?