

16. How were the works of God displayed in this man (cf v3) and what was his final response as recorded by John?

### **Pray**

Give thanks and praise to God for your own faith. Pray for either yourself and others, that you would be able to grow in understanding about Jesus and trusting in Him.

Pray for those who have a specific ministry as evangelists and particularly those involved in apologetics ministry (that is presenting evidence for faith and answering objections). Pray that the Holy Spirit would break down the barriers to unbelief.

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## **Meeting Jesus**

### **Week 4**

### **Seeing and Believing**

#### **Read John chapter 9 verses 1 to 12**

1. How does what Jesus says in verse 3 fit in with your answers to the questions at the start of the previous study on John chapter 5?

*(This issue of the relationship between sin and sickness bothers you take a look at the Bible study on 1 Kings 8.33-40 which may also be available online.)*

2. How does the manner in which Jesus healed this man compare with the healing of the lame man in chapter 5 (or that in Jn 4.50)?

3. Do you think there was a reason why Jesus healed this man in this particular way? What practical effect did it have (v12)?

#### **Read John chapter 9 verses 13 to 23**

4. In what different ways did people respond to this miracle?

5. If something like this happened today do you think we would find the same range of responses or would things be different now?

**Read John chapter 9 verses 24 to 34**

6. What does this incident suggest about how willing people are to accept evidence that goes against what they believe?

7. In what way is this like being blind?

8. Can you think of situations, perhaps from conversations you have had, where a non-Christian just dismisses evidence because it goes against what they already believe.

9. Flip the questions around. Can you think of situations, perhaps from conversations you have had, where an atheist might accuse Christians of the same failing, being unwilling to accept evidence which, as they see it, disproves or dents what we believe?

10. Some, struggling with their own doubts, will say that faith is about believing even when the facts seem to be against us. How does this compare with what we saw last week about the witnesses in John chapter 5 and elsewhere?

*Remember that John's purpose in writing the gospel is to present evidence so that we would believe (Jn 20.21). He is not making things up (John 21.24) but he is deliberately selecting and presenting evidence with this end in view.*

11. How could you use John's gospel to help explain to someone you know the evidence about Jesus?

12. Would you be willing to give this a go? There is a resource called "The Word One to One" which does just this and some people at St James have used it so if you are interested have a word with David.

13. What effect did the attitude of the Pharisees have on the man?

**Read John chapter 9 verses 35 to 41**

14. How does the faith of this man develop during what happened? (Hint - look at some of the things he said.) Might things have worked out differently if Jesus had restored his sight immediately?

15. What does Jesus mean in verse 41? How does this compare with John 15 verses 22 to 24 that we recently looked at on a Sunday morning ?