

BYSTANDER

JOHN & THE RABBI FROM NAZARETH

PART 5: OPEN EYES

INTRODUCTION

There are many products we buy, use, and put our confidence in without having all the information or fully understanding how they work. In the Gospel of John, we see a man begin to follow Jesus based on limited information. This man, who was born blind, said he only knew one main thing—and that one thing was enough to make him curious about who Jesus really was.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things people put full trust in without having all the information?
2. Give some examples of proof people would like to have before believing in God.
3. Read John 9:1–20, where the apostle John recounts the story of Jesus healing a man born blind.
 - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe this actually happened?
 - In verse 2, there was an assumption that sin and suffering were connected. Were you raised to believe that?
 - In verse 3, Jesus said purpose can be found in the lifelong suffering of the blind man. How does it resonate with you that suffering might have a purpose?
 - Similar to the sign from John 5, Jesus seems to violate the Sabbath tradition held by the Pharisees. Why does John continue to mention this?

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4. Read John 9:24–25, where the formerly blind man focuses on the main thing—he could now see! How does what the man said remind you of something that happened in your own life?
5. Think of a season of your life that was difficult through no fault of your own. You may be in one currently. Is there something about that season God used (or could use) to shape your faith? If so, what?
6. If you became a follower of Jesus as an adult, is there one pivotal circumstance that caused you to turn the corner? If so, what was it?
7. In which of these aspects of your faith journey would you like your “eyes opened” more? Explain.
Hope • Joy • Love • Forgiveness • Contentment • Peace • Understanding • Patience

CHANGING YOUR MIND

It’s okay to be wrong. It’s okay not to know. But it’s not okay not to look if there’s something to be seen.