

Ice Breaker:

Do you ever practice what you are going to say ahead of time?

Where? (in the car, in the shower, in the mirror)

Outloud or in your head?

Groups Discussion Questions:

Read John 9 - Have you pens out and underline the things that stand out to you!

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."10 So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." 22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" 28 And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

What were some of the things that stood out to you in this chapter?

Why?

In verse 35-41, Jesus talks about Spiritual Blindness. In the Message Eric talked about an easy test for it. Ask yourself this question: Are you a sinner? Do you ever sin?

Is that easy or difficult for you to answer?

The Pharisees not only did not want to admit that they were sinners, they especially did not want to admit that Jesus was the answer. Why didn't they want Jesus to be the Messiah?

In the Old Testament, Son of Man normally meant human being. It also was a Messianic reference in the Bible. In the New Testament, it was the most common way for Jesus to refer to Himself. Why do you think Jesus used a term that emphasized His humanity?

The Pharisees didn't want to need Jesus. Do you think needing Jesus is still hard for some people?

Do you agree or disagree that you need Jesus as much as a mass murderer?

How is our need for Jesus before we receive salvation, and our need for Jesus every day after the same. How is it different?

Do you live relying on Jesus every hour, or do you live with a get out of hell free card in your pocket?

Prayer Requests

Digging Deeper:

Justification is defined as an act of God by which those who are unrighteous in themselves are nevertheless declared righteous before God while still in the sinning state. It is once and for all deliverance from the punishment we deserve when we believe in Jesus's life, death and resurrection as the payment for our sin.

Sanctification is the day by day process of becoming righteous - or to put it in Foundry terms, Transforming more and more into the image of Christ. Sanctification continues the entire life of the believer and we never "arrive" while in this life. Even if you have been a Christian for 80 years, there is still work the Holy Spirit is carrying out in your life.

Read the following verses and decide whether they describe sanctification or justification:

Romans 7:24-25

1 John 5:5

Romans 5:18

James 4:7

1 Corinthians 5:21

Why is it important that we understand both of these truths?

Which one is more difficult to understand/process?

Which one of these verses should you commit to memory this week?