



Small Group Curriculum • John 9:1–12 • “Seeing and Being Seen”

When Jesus met the man born blind in John 9, the disciples asked: “Who sinned—this man or his parents?” They wanted to assign blame, to make the visible suffering fit into a neat explanation. But Jesus turned the question upside down: “This happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

So often, when we see someone unhoused, hurting, or visibly broken, we don’t just see them—we see a mirror. That mirror reflects our discomfort, our fear, our need to fix, and sometimes our hidden shame. Jesus calls us to look again—not with judgment, but with true sight.

He invites us to see both visible and invisible pain: the trauma, rejection, and generational wounds that shape stories, both theirs and ours. And if we’re not ready for that kind of sight, Jesus waits patiently, placing mud on our eyes and saying, “Go wash... and see.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meals Ministry Interest Meeting: Volunteers offer meals to members of our church community who need some extra support for various reasons like welcoming a new baby, navigating medical issues, or grieving the loss of a family member. If you are interested in learning more about Meals Ministry, join the interest meeting on November 16th in between services in Room 29 to learn more!

Del Mar Giving Fund: The Del Mar Giving Fund will be available from November 2nd – December 31st. More information can be found at <https://awakeningchurch.com/events/del-mar-giving-fund/>

ICEBREAKER OPTIONS

- Option 1: When you see someone unhoused, what is your first instinct—avoidance, compassion, curiosity, guilt, something else?
- Option 2: If your heart were a mirror, what reflection would you most want Jesus to heal or clear so you can see yourself and others more clearly?

INTRODUCTION

Being seen is one of the deepest human desires—and one of our greatest fears. We long for connection but often hide what’s broken. Jesus sees us completely—our visible needs and invisible wounds—and loves us all the way through.

When we encounter visible brokenness in others, especially those living unhoused, God uses that moment to invite us inward: What do I see? What do I avoid? What story am I telling myself about who they are—and who I am?

AWAKENING

Sometimes we see what looks like sin or failure, but Jesus shows us something else: an opportunity for grace, healing, and the revelation of God's work.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

1. Read [John 9:1–7](#). What do you notice about what Jesus does and what He does not do? How does He shift the focus from blame to God's healing work?
2. The Mirror Moment: When you see someone who is visibly suffering (unhoused, struggling, ashamed), what emotions rise up in you? What do those emotions reveal about your own unseen wounds or fears?
3. Invisible Brokenness: What “invisible” pain or generational pattern might God be inviting you to face in yourself? How do you feel when you sense He wants to heal it—but you're not ready?
4. True Sight: What would it look like for you to ask Jesus for “mud-and-water” healing—letting Him touch what you hide and slowly open your eyes? How does seeing others with compassion begin to heal something in you?

THE PRACTICE OF SEEING

Try this practice during the week:

- Pause & Notice: When you pass someone unhoused or visibly struggling, stop inwardly. Instead of fixing or fleeing, whisper a short prayer: “Jesus, help me see them as You see them—and show me what You want to heal in me.”
- Reflect: At the end of the day, ask: Where did I look away today? What might that reveal about where I'm still blind? Where did I see beauty or grace in someone I usually overlook?

WHEN COMFORT FEELS LIKE SIGHT

In John 9, Jesus heals a man who knows he's blind—and then confronts those who think they already see. The Pharisees weren't cruel; they were confident. They believed their comfort, control, and clarity meant they could see everything that mattered.

Sometimes, comfort can create its own kind of blindness. When life feels steady, we can miss the invisible fractures beneath the surface—our dependence on success, our distance from pain, our quiet need for grace.

If someone in your group says, “I'm doing fine. I don't really feel blind,” invite curiosity instead of correction. Ask your group these questions:

A W A K E N I N G

- What might Jesus want to show you—not to expose you, but to expand your vision?
- Are there places where comfort has dulled compassion?
- What would it mean to let Jesus interrupt your sense of “seeing” with His deeper sight?

True sight isn’t about shame or crisis—it’s about clarity. It’s letting Jesus lift even the good things (success, comfort, reputation) into His light, so we can see them for what they really are: gifts, not gods.

RESPONSE & PRAYER

Take a moment of silence. Ask God: What in me is unseen but hurting? If you’re not ready for healing, say so. God is not impatient with your readiness.

“Lord Jesus, thank You that You see me—all the visible and invisible parts. When I look at those who are unhoused or broken, let me not look away. Show me the mirror of my own heart, and begin to heal what’s hidden. Reveal how you want to work through me to make those who feel unseen to feel seen. Even if I’m not ready, I invite You to begin Your work of true sight. Open my eyes to see as You see.”

JOURNAL / PRAYER PROMPT

Write down one way you will reflect on an invisible wound, generational pattern, or fear that God brought to mind tonight. Think of ways God is using you to help someone in your life who is unseen to feel seen. Then pray:

“God, I give You permission to begin healing this. Help me to see Your image in every person—including myself. Teach me to see beyond what is visible, and to trust that even my blindness can become a place where You reveal Your glory.”