



THE SEVEN SIGNS

EXPLORING THE SEVEN SIGNS OF
JESUS IN THE BOOK OF JOHN

AN EIGHT LESSON BIBLE STUDY



The Seven Signs

LESSON 1

THE PURPOSE

LEADER NOTES

- The Book of John is one of four gospel books in the New Testament.
 - It was the last gospel written and was constructed much later in John's life, so he had longer to consider what details the people at the time needed to hear.
 - Before writing his gospel, John had already penned several letters to churches (1, 2, and 3 John are a few preserved in the Bible). His gospel account was likely influenced by a desire to reinforce foundational truths the early church members likely struggled with.
 - John had a personal relationship with Jesus and called himself "the one whom Jesus loved" in his narrative (John 13:23).
 - The gospel narrative centers on Jesus' identity as Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31). The title "Christ" is often used interchangeably with "Messiah" or "Savior" and carries the profound meaning of the "anointed one." Anointing signifies being set apart for a specific purpose, and Jesus, as the anointed one, was set apart as God's only Son (God in the flesh) to save the world of their sins once and for all.
 - The seven miracles John records in his gospel are strategically chosen to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
 - The first chapter of John sets the stage for the rest of the narrative by connecting Jesus' deity to that of God. John uses language consistent with Genesis and Exodus motifs in a poetic form of writing to assert that Jesus and God are one (v. 1-18). The rest of chapter one introduces several encounters with Jesus as he calls his first disciples. In those encounters, seven different titles, keeping in theme with the number seven, are given to Jesus by those who Jesus invites to follow him.
 - The John mentioned in John 1:6-8 is not the author, but John the Baptizer who was prophesied about from the Old Testament and chosen by God to prepare the way for Jesus (For further study: Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-80, 3:1-21).
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LESSON 1

THE PURPOSE

FOCUS

1. If you can go back in time and see any miracle performed in the Bible, which one would you want to see and why?
 2. Why does what you believe about Jesus matter? Or does it?
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STUDY

READ JOHN 20:30-31

1. John could have written about more signs Jesus had done, but he hand-selected seven specific ones. What is John's purpose for you as you study the signs?

READ JOHN 1:1-5

2. John purposefully paralleled his beginning statements about Jesus to the creation story. Read Genesis 1:1-5 and discuss the similarities between the passages.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

3. What is John teaching us about Jesus by placing him at the beginning of creation? Why are these huge claims to make about someone?

READ JOHN 1:6-13

4. What are the two responses people have toward Jesus' coming (v. 11-12)?

a. How does someone become a child of God (v. 12-13)?

b. In verse 12, "believing in his name" means believing in everything that Jesus is, including Christ, the Son of God. Many people say they believe Jesus existed, but why does it matter what you believe about Jesus?

READ JOHN 1:14-18

5. In this section, John is making connections for his Jewish audience to the accounts in Exodus. Read Exodus 33:18-23, then answer the following: What do you learn about God's glory from Moses' experience?

18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory." 19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." 21 And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

6. What connection is John making about Jesus when he says, "we have seen his glory," in verse 14? What does this teach you about who Jesus is?

7. John uses the Father-Son language (v. 14, 18) to describe the relationship between the two parts of the trinity: God the Father and Jesus the Son. What does it mean for Jesus to be the Son of God (specifically verses 1 and 14)?

8. John is asserting that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. That is, he is the Savior, God in flesh. How is the passage setting up his point? Why do these titles about Jesus matter?

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

The Seven Signs

LESSON 2

WATER INTO WINE

LEADER NOTES

- Turning water into wine is the first recorded sign John writes about to prove that Jesus is God: the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
 - John's gospel is the only one that contains this miracle.
 - While Jesus performed many other signs not recorded in the book of John (John 20:30), the phrasing "the first of his signs" (v. 11) implies that Jesus did not perform any miracles before this moment.
 - In Jesus' time, Jewish weddings lasted about a week because guests might have to travel a far distance for the event. The family was responsible for having enough food and drink at any given time to feed their visitors. Culturally, running out of food and beverages at the celebration would humiliate the family.
 - Jesus calling his mother "woman" (v. 4) was an act of politeness and respect back then. You could liken it to saying, "Madame." Jesus also used this phrase when he spoke to his mother as he hung from the cross (John 19:26).
 - In John's gospel, the phrase "My hour has not yet come" (v. 4) refers to the culmination of Jesus' ministry at his crucifixion (John 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27). In this situation, Jesus performed the miracle quietly, protecting the timing of his ministry.
 - The way Jesus transformed the water into wine provides a powerful symbolic lesson. In the Bible, wine often represented blood, and purification jugs were designated to help people clean themselves from sin. When Jesus turned the water from the ritual purification jugs into wine, he showed us how his divine blood would replace rituals designated to wipe the people's sins away.
 - The master of the feast (2:9) was the head server and master of ceremonies during the week-long wedding celebration. The bridegroom's family was responsible for purchasing the wedding supplies, like the wine. So, the master of ceremonies was surprised by the family when they brought out their best wine last, which would have been out of order in his experience. Nonetheless, he was greatly pleased!
 - The sign revealed Jesus's glory, the same glory John spoke about in John 1:14, which reveals God's glory when we see Jesus.
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The Seven Signs

LESSON 2

WATER INTO WINE

FOCUS

1. What is your favorite part of a wedding?
 2. Describe a time you messed up or were in a bind, and someone helped you.
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STUDY

READ JOHN 2:1-11

1. Summarize the story. Make sure to note the problem, how Jesus helps, and how the disciples respond.
2. Attending a wedding with Jesus was one of the first things his new disciples (followers) did with him. What does this teach you about the way Jesus lived and did ministry? In what areas in your life can you invite people in while investing in them?
3. Verse 3-4 refers to the hour of Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus was in control of the timing of his ministry and was not ready to fully reveal himself. Yet, he chose to address the needs of the people by discreetly fixing the family's problem of not having enough wine for the guests. What does this teach you about Jesus? How have you experienced Jesus in this way?
4. The jugs Jesus used to change the water into wine were purification jugs used for cleaning oneself from sin (v. 6-8). In the scriptures, wine often represents blood. What spiritual lesson do you think Jesus is making when he takes a religious purification ritual and transforms it into the best wine? (i.e., What is he symbolically saying will purify the people?)

5. Think about the quantity and quality of wine that Jesus provided. What does this teach you about what Jesus offers and who he is?

6. In Isaiah 25:6, the prophet Isaiah describes the banquet feast the King Messiah will have with his people: “On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.” How is Jesus giving a “taste” of his future reign?

7. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus’ signs? How does the sign performed prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?

8. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. How did the disciples respond to his first sign (v. 11)?

a. In this passage, believing in Jesus here does not mean they did not believe in Him before (see their first encounter and responses to Jesus in chapter 1). Instead, their belief in Jesus was confirmed and strengthened. How has your faith in Jesus grown throughout the years? If it hasn’t, why do you think that is?

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.

2. What should you pray for based on this passage?

3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

The Seven Signs

LESSON 3

A BOY HEALED

LEADER NOTES

- Healing the official's son is the second recorded sign John writes about to prove Jesus' deity as the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
 - Cana and Capernaum are approximately 25 miles apart.
 - The word for "official" in Greek could mean a court official or nobleman.
 - When Jesus says, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe" (v. 48), the word "you" is plural in Greek. Jesus is speaking to the people in general, not just the official. Like us, asking for more and more signs was a common problem people had during Jesus's day (Matthew 16:1-4; John 6:...?). Jesus' healing of the official's son from afar can be seen as a teaching opportunity; it is like asking the official if he will have faith (trust) that Jesus will do what he says.
 - Asking Jesus to perform a miracle does not alone express faith. After all, anyone can ask for a miracle out of desire. However, the desperate man, whose son is near death, chose to trust Jesus' words and left without Jesus by his side. Truly, he believes that Jesus can and did heal his son without even being physically with him. The official acts on this belief as he walks home, demonstrating faith in action.
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LESSON 3

A BOY HEALED

FOCUS

1. When have you felt scared to go to God about something? Explain.
 2. When is it most challenging, and when is it easiest to trust Jesus?
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STUDY

READ JOHN 4:46-54

1. Summarize the story. Make sure to note the problem, how Jesus helps, and how the official and others respond to the miracle.
2. Jesus challenged the official and those around him, saying, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." Jesus is setting up a spiritual challenge for this man: are you willing to really trust me, without seeing proof, or not? Why is this a challenge for us still today? Does Jesus expect you to have no good reason to believe and simply rely on blind faith? Explain.
3. How did the official demonstrate genuine belief in Jesus (v. 50)? Why do you think he took Jesus at his word even before seeing the miracle?
 - a. How did the man's faith strengthen with joy and confidence on his journey home (v. 51-53)?
4. What can this man's experience teach you about how to approach God with your prayers?

5. What is unique about how Jesus healed and transformed the boy from death to life (v. 50)?

- a. How has God's Word (the Bible) transformed your life?
- b. How have you struggled with the scriptures (devoting time to them, understanding them, desiring to read, trusting them as God's Word, etc.)?
- c. How can you overcome these struggles?

6. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs? How does the sign performed prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?

7. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. Why do you think his whole household, not just the man, responded in faith (v. 53)? How do you imagine the conversation between the official and his family and servants went?

8. Do you have a family member who has influenced your faith in Jesus for the better? Explain how they do this. How are you influencing your family's faith? Explain.

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

The Seven Signs

LESSON 4

THE HEALING AT THE POOL

LEADER NOTES

- Healing the man at the pool is the third recorded sign John writes about to prove Jesus' identity as the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
- Performing miracles is not the mission of Jesus' ministry. Many were disabled, and yet he chose only to heal one man who wasn't even looking for his help. He used this miracle as a teaching opportunity.
- The pool of Bethesda was near the Temple in the northeast corner of Jerusalem. The colonnades provided shade and nearness to the Temple for the disabled.
- Verse 4 is omitted from the newer Bible translations because while the sentence is in some manuscripts, it is not in the earliest ones, which implies that it was likely written into the margins by a scribe who was attempting to help add context for why the invalid was waiting to get in the water.
- Since the man had been disabled for 38 years (v. 5), there was no doubt that it was the power of God who immediately made this man well.
- "The Jews" (v. 10) refers to the religious leaders in Jerusalem. These leaders added traditions to the laws given by God. In Exodus 20:10, God commands the Sabbath as a day of rest. Over time, the religious leaders added to the commands to protect the holy day. Some restrictions they placed on people for the Sabbath involved how many steps a man could walk, where he could spit, and how much weight he could pick up. Jesus often healed people on the Sabbath and, in doing so, highlighted the hypocrisy and hardened hearts of the Pharisees.
- Jesus withdraws after he heals the man (v. 13), protecting the timing of his ministry.
- At another point in Jesus' ministry, he teaches that not all physical ailments result from sin (John 9:3). It is unclear whether this man sinned, which caused his disability; however, Jesus' warning to sin no more (v. 14) may be a reminder that there are worse things than being crippled, including the penalty of sin (Luke 12:4-5).

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LESSON 4

THE HEALING AT THE POOL

LEADER NOTES CONTINUED

- The Jewish leaders held to the belief that God is always working by sustaining the world, even on Sabbath days. Therefore, when Jesus said, "My Father is working until now, and I am working," the Jews knew Jesus was claiming that he and God are one; that is, Jesus is God (v. 17-18), which is why his statements outraged them so much.
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The Seven Signs

LESSON 4

THE HEALING AT THE POOL

FOCUS

1. How do you handle doubts about your faith?
 2. When all seems hopeless, where might people turn for help?
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STUDY

READ JOHN 5:1-18

1. Summarize what is happening in the story. Think about: What is the problem in the story? How does Jesus help? How do people respond to His help?
2. What is unusual about the verse numbers between verses 3 and 5?
*Read the footnote to discover what is missing.
 - a. Does the absence or inclusion of the verse change the story? Does it change any foundation doctrine (belief) of the Christian faith?
 - b. Does the fact that Bible scholars removed the verse because of questions of its authenticity to the original writing concern you? Why or why not?
3. How long had the man been paralyzed? Why is this an especially important detail when you consider what Jesus was about to do?
4. What do you learn about Jesus through his interactions with the paralyzed man?
 - a. Why do you think Jesus told the man to sin no more after he was healed? Give examples of how sin can make things worse.

5. Nothing in the Old Testament laws God gave expressly prohibited the innocent act of carrying a mat from one area to another on the Sabbath. Those traditions were added to God's laws by people. How did Jesus respond to the Jewish leaders who were angry that he healed someone on the Sabbath (v. 17)?

a. The Jewish leaders know that God is always working by sustaining the world, even on Sabbath days. What is Jesus claiming about himself and his relationship with God the Father when he says he is working on the Sabbath just like his Father (v. 18)?

b. How is Jesus claiming to be the Son of God different from us calling ourselves children of God? How do you know it is different from the context of this passage?

6. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs? How does the sign performed prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?

7. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. The passage contains a negative response toward Jesus by the religious leaders. Why do you think they overlooked the incredible miracle Jesus performed and reacted in anger and disbelief toward him? Give an example of how people ignore the signs or evidence of Jesus nowadays.

8. How have you experienced negative reactions from others because of your faith in Jesus? How do you respond when you hear other's doubts or disdain towards Jesus? How should you respond?

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.

2. What should you pray for based on this passage?

3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

The Seven Signs

LESSON 5

JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000

LEADER NOTES

- The feeding of the 5,000 is the fourth recorded sign that proves the deity of Jesus: the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
 - The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels.
 - Using clues from the text, scholars have determined that this sign occurred approximately six months after the last miracle that John recorded. The mention of the Passover in this chapter and the recording of the other festivals in the surrounding chapters help create a timeline of events.
 - The Greek word for “people” in verse 10 means “human being; literally male and female.” While the scriptures recorded 5,000 men, it was likely that 15,000-20,000 people experienced the feeding.
 - With the Passover at hand (v. 4), the miracle with bread made an especially profound impression on the Jews. Bread, symbolic of God’s deliverance on more than one occasion in their forefather’s rescue from slavery from the Egyptians (Exodus 12; Exodus 16), took on a deep significance during this festival.
 - John emphasizes an important lesson when he writes twice that Jesus gave thanks before multiplying the food (v. 11, 23). The disciples focused on their human efforts (Did they have enough money? Could they get enough donations?). Jesus teaches that our efforts are valuable to God only when we come to Him first.
 - In the Old Testament, the prophet Elisha performed a similar miracle on a smaller scale: he fed 100 men and had leftovers after dividing 20 small barley loaves (2 Kings 4:42-44). The Jews would have been familiar with this story and recognized that Jesus’ miracle was much greater in quantity (at least 50 times greater with a surplus of food left over). Recognizing this connection, they perceived Jesus as the prophet Moses foretold (v. 11).
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The Seven Signs

LESSON 5

JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000

FOCUS

1. What is your favorite food of all time?
 2. Where have you seen evidence of God in your life?
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STUDY

READ JOHN 6:1-15

1. Summarize what is happening in the story. Think about: What is the problem in the story? How does Jesus help? How do people respond to His help?
2. What does Jesus ask Phillip, and why does he ask him this (v. 5-6)?
 - a. How do his disciples respond to his question (v. 7-9)?
 - b. What does Jesus teach them from how he approaches the situation (v. 11)?
 - c. What do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to understand from his testing?
3. What do you learn about Jesus from this sign and how he interacts with his disciples and the people he fed? What do you learn about people from this account?
4. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs? How does the sign performed prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?

READ JOHN 6:25-40

5. Jesus uses the miracle of multiplying the food to reveal a deeper spiritual truth. What kind of food does Jesus say to work for (v. 27)? How do you work for that sort of food (v. 29)? Why might this be confusing for anyone hearing?

6. The people seemed to think they needed more proof from Jesus and brought up stories from the Old Testament. What did the people misunderstand about the miracle from the Old Testament (v. 31-32)?

7. Manna sustained the Israelites' lives on earth for a time, but what does Jesus offer that is even better (v. 33-35)? Who is this food for (v. 33)? How do you receive it, and what are the promises given to you when you receive it (v. 35, 37, 39-40)?

READ JOHN 6:60-71

8. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. Describe the different responses people had to Jesus after he explained the spiritual implications of the sign.

- a. Why do you think there are such differing reactions to him?
- b. How would you describe to someone what it means to genuinely believe in Jesus?

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

The Seven Signs

LESSON 6

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

LEADER NOTES

- Jesus healing a man born blind is the sixth recorded sign that points to the deity of Jesus: the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
 - While this sign is not specifically noted as a “sign” by John, it is one of seven miracles that John recorded in his gospel narrative.
 - The account of Jesus walking on water is recorded in two other gospels, Mark 6:45-52 and Matthew 14:22-33. All authors place the miracle after the feeding of the 5,000.
 - John wrote his gospel last and, therefore, assumes that the readers have already read the other gospel accounts. Therefore, his inclusion of the story can be shortened so that he can focus on more details in other places.
 - The Sea of Galilee is approximately 7 miles long and is positioned below a series of hills, which makes it prone to sudden storms and bursts of wind.
 - Jesus instructed his disciples to travel across the sea (Mark 6:45). Perhaps he had them travel because the large crowd could become violent since they wanted to seize him as king and start a political revival against the Roman government. Regardless of the reason, the disciples obeyed Jesus and found themselves in the middle of a storm, teaching another valuable lesson: obeying Jesus does not mean there will always be “smooth sailing.”
 - The men were frightened not necessarily from the storm but because they saw Jesus walking on water (v. 29) and thought he was a ghost (Mark 6:49-50). Sometimes, God’s intervention and help can seem scary because we do not fully understand.
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The Seven Signs

LESSON 6

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

FOCUS

1. What is your favorite body of water? Why?
 2. What can be intimidating about water (i.e., rain, oceans, rivers, lakes, ponds)?
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STUDY

READ JOHN 6:16-21

1. Summarize what is happening in the story. Think about: What is the problem in the story? How does Jesus help? How do people respond to His help?

READ MARK 6:45-52 AND MATTHEW 14:22-33

2. What else do you learn from the other gospels' narratives?
3. What lessons can you take away from these accounts?
4. Does having different details in the narratives mean there are contradictions in the Bible? Why or why not?
5. The Jews would have been familiar with Psalms like 89:9, which says this about God: "You rule the raging of the sea when its waves rise, you still them." Walking on water is not something Jesus did to amaze people. Think about the psalm and miracle. What is he teaching them about himself from this miracle?

6. In Mark's account, the disciples were so surprised by Jesus' miracle on the water because they had not yet understood the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 (Mark 6:51-52). Throughout the gospels, the disciples mature in their trust for Jesus, but they still have a lot to grow in their understanding. What tips would you give someone wanting to grow spiritually?

7. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs? How does the sign performed prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?

8. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. The disciples did not understand the miracle they were witnessing and taking part in during the feeding of the 5,000 (Mark 6:52). However, the miracle of Jesus walking on water uncovered something they were missing. Matthew 14:33 says, "And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."" What do they understand about Jesus after this miracle, and how do they behave as a result of their belief? Does this seem odd or logical to do? Why?

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

The Seven Signs

LESSON 7

JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

LEADER NOTES

- Jesus healing a man born blind is the sixth recorded sign that points to the deity of Jesus: the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
- The disciples' reaction to the man's blindness was a typical world view of the time (v. 2). While it is true that our own actions can have the biggest impact on our lives, there are times when hardships and trials may come and they are no fault of our own.
- Jesus refers to himself as the light of the world and while he is alive he is seen as "the day" and he steadfastly continues the works that God the Father has called him to before his crucifixion and death, when "night" comes (v. 4-5).
- Light and sight are often used to symbolize spiritual knowledge. For Christians, the spiritual "sight" we receive when we are saved is something we did not have until Christ chose to give it, just as he was the one to give to the blind man.
- Jesus' healing of the blind is prophetic. Isaiah 29:18, 35:5, and 42:7 all speak about a future Prophet who will come and heal the blind. Jesus is the only one in the scriptures given credit for healing blindness (v.32).
- Once again the religious rulers are angry about Jesus healing on the Sabbath. These leaders added traditions to the laws given by God. In Exodus 20:10, God commands the Sabbath as a day of rest. Over time, the religious leaders added to the commands to protect the holy day. Some additional restrictions they placed on people for the Sabbath involved how many steps a man could walk, where he could spit, and how much weight he could pick up. Jesus often healed people on the Sabbath and, in doing so, highlighted the hypocrisy and spiritual blindness of the Pharisees.

The Seven Signs

LESSON 7

JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

LEADER NOTES CONTINUED

- Jesus does not always heal, but when he does, he does to bring glory to God and reveal a deeper spiritual truth to those around him. In this case, he says that he came to give sight to those who are blind, that is, those who have unbelief. However, those who think they know it all but have missed the point (the need for a Savior) are truly blind, and the guilt of sin remains on them because they are unwilling to see their misconceptions and turn to him.
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The Seven Signs

LESSON 7

JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND

FOCUS

1. Can hardships or trials ever be good? Explain.
 2. What do you think it means to be spiritually blind?
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STUDY

READ JOHN 9:1-41

1. Summarize what is happening in the story. Think about: What is the problem in the story? How does Jesus help? How do people respond to His help?
2. Not every hardship in our lives results from our own or someone else's poor choices; sometimes, it is just the result of living in a broken world. What does Jesus say the purpose of the man's blindness is (v. 3)? How does the man's suffering bear witness to the works of God?
3. How long was the man blind (v. 2)? After his healing, did the man seem angry that God allowed him to be blind for most of his life? Explain why or why not. What does this teach you about how to view your struggles and hardships?
4. Why is there a division between the people in the story over the healed man (v. 16)? If someone were to confess Jesus as the Christ (Savior), what could happen to them (v. 22)? What are some of the consequences people face nowadays for following Jesus?

5. Re-read the healed man's response to the Pharisees when they questioned him (v. 24-34). Why do you think the healed man had the confidence to speak to the religious rulers as he did?

- a. The man only had one interaction with Jesus, yet he made logical conclusions about him. What were those conclusions (v. 30-34)?
- b. Why do you think the Pharisees refused to accept the good reasoning from the man?

6. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs? How does the sign performed prove He is the Christ, the Son of God?

7. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. How does the healed man respond to Jesus (v. 38)? How do the religious leaders react to what they witnessed? Which is the most logical response?

8. Jesus does not always heal people physically, but when he does, it is for the glory of God and to teach a spiritual truth to those around him. What is Jesus' point in healing a blind man and pointing out that the Pharisees are still blind (v. 39-41)?

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.
2. What should you pray for based on this passage?
3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?

The Seven Signs

LESSON 8

THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

LEADER NOTES

- Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is the seventh and final sign that John records to point to the deity of Jesus: the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:30-31).
 - The raising of Lazarus is only recorded in the Book of John and anticipates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
 - John 11:9 implies that to walk in the day is to walk in the light of God's Will. Even though traveling to Judea is dangerous, God intends for Jesus to go there to perform a miracle and reveal God's glory. Sometimes, God will call His followers to some scary paths, but if He calls you to do so, His light is with you, and you will succeed.
 - The phrase "deeply moved" (v. 33, 38) means to be in immense sorrow over his friend's death and the grief his other friends suffered. Jesus's sorrow was likely intermixed with anger at the evil of death (1 Corinthians 15:26).
 - Jesus telling the people to move the tomb is no small request (v. 39). It would be similar to someone asking you to dig up the body of a beloved one four days after they had died and been buried, but possibly worse because their embalming methods were nowhere near as good as today.
 - Jewish mysticism at the time taught that a person's spirit could hover over their body for three days after they die and return to them. After the third day, it was believed that the dead person's spirit would leave for the afterlife. Jesus rose Lazarus from the dead four days after he died (v. 39). The miracle performed was clearly an act of God.
 - John does not focus on Lazarus' reaction after leaving the tomb. The focus is Jesus, not Lazarus.
 - This final miracle triggers the Jewish leaders to put into action the plan to have Jesus arrested, tried for blasphemy, and ultimately put to death on a Roman cross (v. 53).
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The Seven Signs

LESSON 8

THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

FOCUS

1. Are you a person who is usually on time, early, or late? Why is that?
 2. Do you think it is okay to question God? Why or why not?
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STUDY

READ JOHN 11:1-53

1. Summarize what is happening in the story. Think about: What is the problem in the story? How does Jesus help? How do the people respond to His help?
2. What about Jesus' behavior in verses 5-6 is unusual? Re-read verses 4 and 15. What does Jesus know about the reason for Lazarus' sickness and death that the others do not (v. 4, 11, 14)?
3. Martha shows more faith than criticism; her conversation with Jesus reflects her mourning, not complaining. What does Jesus teach her about trusting him in verses 25-26?
 - a. How does Martha respond to him (v. 27)?
 - b. Did she respond this way before or after Lazarus was raised from the dead?
 - c. What does this teach you about faith?
4. Jesus knew Lazarus' death would not be final, so why do you think he wept? What does this teach you about the character of God?
 - a. Read Hebrews 4:15-16 below and discuss how it connects to the situation and how it might comfort someone hurting.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:15-16

5. Think about people who are hurting in your life—maybe even you. What lessons might God teach you through this story that could help you understand suffering, hardships, and grief?

6. As Jesus prays to God, why does he say he is praying and doing the miracle (v. 41-42)?

7. According to John 20:31, what is the purpose of Jesus' signs?

a. How does the sign performed prove He is the Christ, the Son of God? Is this convincing evidence? Why or why not?

8. The signs are always about pointing you to Jesus, and each person is responsible for how they respond to Him. What were people's different responses towards the sign (v. 43, 53)?

a. What do you think is the most logical response to have towards someone who is claiming to be the Savior of the World and who raised someone from the dead four days after his death?

b. How are you responding to who Jesus says he is, and how does your response reflect how you live?

APPLY

1. What lessons do you learn from this passage? Explain.

2. What should you pray for based on this passage?

3. What change would you like to implement in your life based on these verses?