

Introduction to the Lesson

Think about the most incredible spectacle you've ever seen. Describe it in detail.

Maybe a horrific car accident, or chance encounter with a celebrity... maybe it was a shooting star, or a solar/lunar eclipse... Were you on a crazy roller coaster, or have you been through scary turbulence on a plane?

Was there something inherently unbelievable about what you saw or experienced? Did you share your story with anyone else? Did they believe you?

Leonard Ravenhill has been credited with saying, "A man with an experience, an encounter with God, is never at the mercy of a man with an argument." In this final installment in the WORLDVIEW series, we will discuss our experiences with God, and how they can be powerful in overcoming the attacks of the enemy.

Primary Scripture

^{NAU} **John 9:1-25** 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 would be born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." ⁶ When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, *Sent*). So he went away and washed, and came *back* seeing. ⁸ Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, "Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Others were saying, "This is he," *still* others were saying, "No, but he is like him." ¹⁰ He kept saying, "I am the one." ¹¹ So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?" ¹² He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received sight." ¹³ They said to him, "Where is He?" He *answered*, "I do not know."

¹⁴ They *brought* to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. ¹⁵ Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. ¹⁶ Then the Pharisees also were asking him how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁷ Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such ¹⁸ signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁹ So they *said* to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet."

²⁰ The Jews then did not believe *it* of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, ²¹ and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" ²² His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²³ but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." ²⁴ His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be ²⁵ Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. ²⁶ For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁷ So a 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." ²⁸ He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

Secondary Studies

^{NAU} **Revelation 12:10-12** ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹ And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. ¹² For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.”

Homiletical Idea (The Textual Truth)

Jesus healed a man who had been born blind.

Main Ideas from the Texts (The “Take-Away” Truths)

1. Jesus healed a man who had been blind from birth.
2. The religious leaders did not believe Jesus had performed such a miracle.
3. The experience of the man who had been healed was irrefutable.

Practical Applications from the Texts

1. Jesus was sent to open blind eyes—physically and spiritually.
2. Those who don’t want to believe will find excuses to dismiss the power of God.
3. Our experiences are powerful weapons to defeat the attacks of the enemy.

Objectives for the Lesson

1. Recall Jesus’ power demonstrated over blindness.
2. Recognize the attacks of the enemy against that man, and his family.
3. Tell about a personal supernatural encounter or experience with God.
4. Use their experience to defend and bolster their faith.

Lesson Outline

1. Jesus was sent to display the wonder, power and glory of God.
 - a. Jesus said, “⁴ We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.”
 - b. Jesus said, “⁵ While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”
 - i. Jesus healed the man’s blind eyes.
 - ii. Jesus opened the man’s spiritual eyes to see Him as Lord.
 1. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had put him out [of the synagogue], and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “Who is He, [\[e\]](#) Lord, that I may believe in Him?”
 2. ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him¹, and He is the one who is talking with you.” ³⁸ And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him.
2. Jesus’ miracles authenticated His message and His ministry.
 - a. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke the oracles of God, and then demonstrated His power through miraculous signs.
 - b. Jesus also spoke the Word of God, and then demonstrated the power of God.
 - c. Jesus’ message was radical, and His teachings upended the religious notions and ideas of the temple leaders.²

¹ Note the significance of this statement for a man who had literally *never seen anyone* until that moment. It was doubly significant that not only had he seen someone for the first time ever, but that he was looking at the Man Who had healed him.

- i. Most of the conflict Jesus encountered arose from the religious leaders of His day.
 - ii. Those leaders questioned His teaching, His ministry, and His identity.
 - 1. Teaching – Consider the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus placed His words in greater authority than the law given by Moses. (cp. Matt 5:27, 38, 43)
 - 2. Ministry – Notice the times that Jesus healed on the Sabbath, or when He cleansed the temple, or exorcised the demoniac in the Synagogue. (cp. Matt 21:23-27; Lk 4:35-37)
 - 3. Identity – Jesus made some very specific statements about His identity, and the leaders clearly understood He claimed to be Divine. (cp. John 8:39-42)
 - d. Jesus' radical message was accompanied by miraculous signs.
 - i. The healing of the paralytic man was a direct response to the objections of the Pharisees.
 - ii. Jesus grounded His authority to forgive sins with His demonstration of creative and restorative power over a paralyzed man.
 - iii. Jesus taught a multitude of people all day, and then fed them with five loaves and two fish.
 - iv. Jesus' miracles and His teachings worked together to validate and authenticate His identity and mission.
3. The blind man's testimony could not be ignored.
- a. The testimony of the people – “⁸Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?”⁹ Others were saying, “This is he,” *still* others were saying, “No, but he is like him.”
 - b. The testimony of his parents – “¹⁸The Jews then did not believe *it* of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, ¹⁹and questioned them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;²¹ but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know.”
 - c. The testimony of the blind man –
 - i. So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?”¹¹ He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.”
 - ii. ²⁴So a 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.” ²⁵He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”
4. If you have surrendered to the Lordship of Christ, then you have a story to share.
- a. Your testimony is made up of three basic points—
 - i. Who you were before you met Christ...
 - ii. How you met Christ...
 - iii. Who you are since you surrendered to Christ...
 - b. Your testimony is a powerful weapon against the enemy.
 - i. It defeats doubt.
 - 1. If you know you experienced the power of God, then no one can convince you otherwise.
 - ii. It defies debate.
 - 1. “A man with an experience of God is never at the mercy of a man with an argument.” *Leonard Ravenhill*

² Matt 7:29; Mark 1:22, 27; Lk 4:32, 36, et al

- iii. It drives desire.
 1. When we see what God can do in us, it motivates us to see that same power in others.
- c. Your testimony is sharpened every time you repeat it.
 - i. **Rom. 10:9** ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, [f]resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, [g]resulting in salvation.
 - ii. The more we talk about what God has done in us, the more we CONFESS His goodness, the more our own faith is strengthened.

Teaching Hints and Tips

- Share the story of the blind man in relatable terms—make the story come alive with details.
- Dramatize Jesus' conflicts with the religious leaders.
- Debate the current arguments for and against believing in the God of Scripture.
- Note the difference between hearing about a great concert, or an exciting game, versus actually being present to see it in person.
- Talk about what it means to surrender to Christ—not just saying a ritual prayer, but actually choosing in your heart and mind to follow Him.
- Be sure to share your own experiences (the ones that are appropriate for your audience).
- Encourage them to share their experiences with God aloud (church, conferences, camps, et al), even if its in small groups.

Illustrations/Multimedia



Spider-Man (2002) - (1/7) Spider Bite Scene

**This clip shows the origin story of Spider Man; feel free to use any appropriate superhero origin story. Every superhero has an origin story—one that shows where and how they got their “power.”*

Small Group Questions and Prompts

Share the most spectacular sight you’ve ever seen in person—
where were you,
what were you doing,
who was with you,
how did it happen?

What’s your learning style?

Are you visual?

Are you more auditory?

Are you hands-on?

What helps you remember best?

What are your biggest doubts about faith?
Which areas are most difficult to explain or defend?

How does our faith help us in areas of temptation, weakness, or doubt?
How does Scripture help us in areas of temptation, weakness, or doubt?
What about coming to church? How does coming to church, being with other believers in worship, help us in crises of faith?

If you didn't know the answers to the tough questions of faith, or have a Scripture in the moment of temptation, how could your experience help in that moment? How can our experiences with Christ be a weapon against the attacks of the enemy?

Have you ever sensed the Presence of God—whether in church, an event, at home alone? What happened? How did you know it was Holy, that it was God? Do you ever think about that moment? Have you ever shared it with anyone else?

Share with the group your most meaningful experience with Christ—how might that experience help you when you don't have all the answers you need?