

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ talk about Christ and their experiences with God (Acts 4:20).

SCRIPTURE

JOHN 9:1–38

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Jesus' miracles did many things. His miracles always met a physical need—the lame could walk, a disease was healed, etc. His miracles also brought about excellent opportunities for deep and meaningful conversations. The miracles Jesus worked also served as proof of the truth that he is the Christ. John called Jesus' miracles "signs." These signs pointed to the authority and truth of Jesus and his message. Anyone can make divine claims, but miracles certainly make those claims ring true.

Check out the *Teacher Prep Video* for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/1064814479>



FACILITATOR NOTE: We're giving you a lot of teaching material. Don't feel like you should cover everything here. You know your group better than anyone. Choose the material that will best fit your students and skip over the rest.

OPENING

PRAYER

Start your small group by asking the Lord to bless your discussion and time together.

OPTIONAL: Give students an opportunity to lead the prayer.

1–2 minutes

OPENING QUESTIONS

- How was the week? What's the best thing that's happened? Anything major going on?
- How might an entire student ministry, church, or community be blessed by even one person becoming a Christ-follower?

3–5 minutes



EXPLORE

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD

You don't have to know everything about Jesus to share or celebrate what you do know. That's what the blind man in this passage discovered and lived out (although everyone around him missed it). Sharing even a small truth about who Jesus is can be more than enough to a world that is missing him entirely. The same is also true in us taking the time to celebrate the life change he's doing in others around us. Every individual around us has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters—including the stories of faith we tell.

3–5 minutes

Read John 9:1–7 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- What do you think the words “humility” and “humiliation” have in common, and how are they different?
Answers might vary, but both come from a common root word, “humilis,” which means “low” or “grounded.” The former is a more positive experience through selflessness, while the latter involves shame and embarrassment.
- When have you felt either “humility” or “humiliation” in your spiritual journey?
Answers might vary. Make sure to be sensitive to what is shared. Come prepared to share an example or two from your life to get the conversation started.
- Why do you think Jesus didn’t just instantly heal the man with words but had him take the steps he did?
Answers might vary. Talk about how the man showed he was willing to obediently follow Jesus by doing as Jesus instructed.



Say something like: Jesus wants to have an engaging relationship with us. He takes the first step by initiating that relationship, but we must obediently follow.

Read John 9:8–23 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- What have been some ways that God has helped you “see?”
Answers will vary but could include: salvation, the difference between right and wrong or truths and lies, wisdom through the Bible, seeking him in worship or prayer, changing how we understand life, etc.
- What do you imagine your part is in continuing to let God help you “see” new things?
Answers will vary but may include submission, a willing heart, obedience to his leading, etc.
- Why do you think Jesus wanted the man to know he hadn’t just been healed by a magician but by the Savior?
Answers will vary, but follow up by pointing out that sometimes we might treat God as though we want what he can do for us more than we want him.



Say something like: The people who harassed the man symbolize a warning to us. If we know Jesus, we may think, “I’m good!” and overlook others who don’t know him as Savior. God doesn’t want anyone missing out on knowing him (1 Timothy 2:3–4). Many people around us can’t “see” past their home life, shattered emotions, and broken relationships that can make them feel stuck in the dark every day. How could your actions and attitude toward them make a difference?

FACILITATOR NOTE: If you have extra time, go through the next set of questions. If not, skip to the **Connection** section.

Read John 9:24–38 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- If you had to describe your style of sharing about God in one word, what would that word be?
Answers will vary, but note common themes like invitational, confrontational, intellectual, relational, etc.
- What steps can you take to help you be more comfortable sharing your faith with others?
Answers will vary, but they could include: praying for comfort and courage, practicing with fellow believers, talking about Jesus in casual conversation instead of using Gospel presentation methods, etc.



Say something like: We aren’t Jesus, but with God in us, we can offer a kind of “healing touch” to others around us. Paul suggested doing this by not looking at people from a worldly point of view but understanding they will either spend eternity with God or apart from him (2 Corinthians 5). This can motivate us past any fear of rejection, for we’ll decide that even if we’re poked at for sharing Jesus, it’s worth it so no one misses out on him.



CONNECT & APPLY

CONNECTION

5-7 minutes

Show your students how Scripture connects to their lives: Use the example below OR share a personal story of how you have grown to “see” or notice God in different ways over time.



Example: When we sing a worship song, we praise God while also telling others (and ourselves) our testimony. Maybe that’s why the worship song “Amazing Grace” has been around for such a long time, for it reminds us that we once were “lost” but now are “found.” Everyone can relate to the being *lost* part—feeling stuck or abandoned by life, but not everyone knows the being *found* part and the freedom that comes after Jesus is invited in. Even then, we might overlook how this isn’t a one-time shift but how, on any given day, we might latch onto a limited perspective that God wants to save us from. If this is your pattern, it’s time to own these lyrics as you more fully step into his grace to rediscover sight in Christ that can see through any blind spots.

- What are some tips you’d give a friend on personalizing the moments we worship God through music?
Answers will vary. Discuss how you can focus on a particular lyric or idea that has special meaning to you. Also, singing can open us up to larger ideas and feelings than what we’re naturally experiencing.

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

2-3 minutes

Disciples of Christ talk about Christ and their experiences with God (Acts 4:20).

Use the *Mark of a Disciple* to reinforce the lesson and challenge students to apply it to their lives.

APPLY IT

5-10 minutes

How can you become more aware of the opportunities God gives you to share your faith with others?



Be specific:

- What are you going to do?
- When are you going to do it?
- Is there someone who can keep you accountable?



FACILITATOR NOTE: Allow students who are comfortable to share their plans for application. This may encourage or spark ideas for other students, plus add a level of accountability.



CLOSING**PRAYER**

2-3 minutes

Take a moment to ask for prayer requests. Spend some time praying for how to celebrate with those who have taken steps with Jesus and reach those who haven't yet.

Write down any prayer requests mentioned and ask your students about them at your next meeting.

MEMORY VERSE

Send the memory verse graphic included in your download to your students later this week to keep the conversation going.

"...for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:20 (ESV)

NOTES

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. May not copy or download more than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible.

Any reference within this piece to Internet addresses of websites not under the administration of LeaderTreks is not to be taken as an endorsement of these websites by LeaderTreks; neither does LeaderTreks vouch for their content.

