



SDG Discussion Guide

John 9

April 28, 2019

For Starters:

Do you know someone who has overcome a disability or a severe struggle and if so, what do you admire about them?

What 24-hour period in your life had the most ups and downs?

What do you hope to see one day?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. What idea lies behind the disciples' question (v 1): Curiosity? Guilt-tripping? A trap? Compassion? Elaborate.
2. What does Jesus' answer (vv 3-5) reveal about how he views the man's suffering?
3. In this story, what is the "work of God" (v 3)? The "night" that is coming (v 4)? The "light of the world" (v 5)? How are sin and suffering related?
4. What physical or emotional misfortune in your life has turned into an opportunity for God to demonstrate his power?
5. When you hear about another person's misfortune, do you typically react like the disciples or Jesus? Why?
6. Who has been the toughest person to explain your faith to? Why? What have you found to be helpful in dealing with people who ridicule your faith?
7. Has your faith in Jesus led to your exclusion from any group? How has this hurt or helped you?

Ask your group members what is on their hearts now that you can pray for. Pray for each other. Ask our all-knowing, all-present and all-powerful Father to speak to you in your prayers - to bring healing and reconciliation for any and all matters of your heart. And trust that God hears your prayers and takes them very seriously. Go forth this week, believing and knowing evermore that God is with **you**.