SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY JAN 14

John 9 · week 9 of 21

Once Blind, Now I See · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 14

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 9 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Jan 11
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Jan 12
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Jan 13
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 9 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Jan 14

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 9:25 · NASB**
>
> *"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."*

A man born blind gets his sight and loses his place in the synagogue. Track two things through the chapter: how the man's view of Jesus grows, and how the Pharisees' view of Jesus shrinks.

John 9 *Once Blind, Now I See*

KEY VERSE 9:25

Theme of the chapter. Jesus, the Light of the world, opens the eyes of a man born blind so that the works of God are displayed in him. The man moves from "the man who is called Jesus" to worshiping the Son of Man, while the leaders who insist they see become blind. Those who admit their blindness receive sight.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

blind	**13**	vv. 1, 2, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 32, 39, 40, 41
eyes	**10**	vv. 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 21, 26, 30, 32
sinner	**3**	vv. 16, 24, 25
know	**11**	vv. 12, 20, 21 (×2), 24, 25 (×2), 29 (×2), 30, 31
Sabbath	**2**	vv. 14, 16
see / sees / saw / seen	**11**	vv. 1, 8, 15, 19, 21, 25, 37, 39 (×3), 41

JOHN 9:1–7 The Sign

1 OBSERVE *What do the disciples assume, and how does Jesus answer (9:2–3)?*

> "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Jesus: "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him" (9:3).

2 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Sproul says God can send affliction for disobedience, but we cannot read every affliction that way. Spurgeon: "Christ is ever for seeking out, not the cause, but the remedy." What difference does it make to ask "for what?" instead of "who sinned?"*

> It turns blame into purpose and attention to the remedy. The works of God can be displayed in a man's suffering.

3 OBSERVE *What did Jesus do, what did He tell the man, and what did the man do (9:6–7)?*

> He spat, made clay, and applied it to his eyes. "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). "He went away and washed, and came back seeing" (9:7).

4 INTERPRET *John translates Siloam as "Sent." Who is "sent" all through this Gospel (see 9:4)?*

> Jesus, sent by the Father ("Him who sent Me," 9:4). He sends the man to the pool called Sent, and the man obeys while still blind.

JOHN 9:8–12 The Neighbors

5 OBSERVE *How does the man tell what happened (9:11)?*

> "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" (9:11).

JOHN 9:13–17 The Pharisees, First Round

6 OBSERVE *What is the problem the Pharisees find (9:14, 16)? What does the man now call Jesus (9:17)?*

> It was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay. Some said, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath"; others asked, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" The man says, "He is a prophet" (9:17).

JOHN 9:18–23 The Parents

7 OBSERVE *What do the parents confirm, what do they refuse to say, and why (9:20–22)?*

> He is their son, and he was born blind. They will not say how he sees. "They were afraid of the Jews," who had agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus as Christ would be put out of the synagogue (9:22).

8 APPLY *Henry: "The fear of man brings a snare." What does being "put out" look like where you live, and where has fear kept you quiet about Jesus?*

> Personal. Being put out meant losing worship, friends and livelihood. Guzik is gentle with the parents; Henry is not.

JOHN 9:24–34 The Pharisees, Second Round

9 OBSERVE *The Pharisees say, "We know that this man is a sinner" (9:24). What does the man say he knows (9:25)?*

> "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see" (9:25).

10 INTERPRET *Follow the man's reasoning in 9:30–33. What is his argument?*

> They do not know where Jesus is from, yet He opened his eyes. God does not hear sinners. Since the beginning no one has opened the eyes of a man born blind. "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing" (9:33).

11 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Spurgeon: "If the gospel of God be true, it can stand any quantity of questioning." Sproul: "Do not ever confuse your personal testimony with the gospel." How do your story and the gospel work together?*

> The story opens the door; Christ's person and work is what you carry through it. "The gospel is about Him."

12 APPLY *What is your "one thing I do know"? Write it in a sentence.*

> Personal. The study's command: tell your "one thing."

JOHN 9:35–41 Jesus Finds Him; the Verdict

13 OBSERVE *What did Jesus do when He heard they had put him out (9:35)? How did the man respond (9:38)?*

> He found him and asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped Him (9:38).

14 OBSERVE *Trace the man's view of Jesus through 9:11, 9:17, 9:33 and 9:38.*

> "The man who is called Jesus" (9:11), "a prophet" (9:17), from God (9:33), Lord whom he worships (9:38).

15 INTERPRET *Jesus says, "For judgment I came into this world" (9:39). How does that fit with 3:17? Who receives sight, and whose sin remains (9:41)?*

> He came to save, but light exposes what is there. Those who admit blindness receive sight; those who say, "We see," keep their sin (9:41). Henry: "Those that are convinced of their disease are in a fair way to be cured."

16 APPLY *The men who threw him out could not keep Jesus from finding him. Who do you know who has been "put out," and how can you go find him?*

> Personal. The study's promise: He finds the ones they put out.

WORD STUDY

17 WORD *aposynagōgos (G656), put out of the synagogue. This word is only in John (9:22; 12:42; 16:2). What does 16:2 say this will mean for Jesus' followers?*

> They will be put out of the synagogue, and those who kill them will think they are offering service to God.

18 WORD *oida (G1492), to know (from having seen). "We know" (9:24, 29) and "I do know" (9:25) battle through the chapter. What is the difference between the Pharisees' knowledge and the man's?*

> Theirs was a closed verdict about Jesus. His was what he had seen happen to him.

ACTS 17:11 The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK
Season 4, Episode 3, "Moon to Blood" (9:1–12)

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

Which parts of John 9 did the episode leave out or move — the parents questioned (9:18–23), the man put out (9:34) and worshiping Jesus (9:35–38)?

> Those scenes are not staged in this episode. The show also adds a riot and a Roman subplot (Gaius and Quintus) that are not in the text.

C2 OBSERVE

Read 9:2–3. Why was the man born blind? Does the episode keep that answer?

> "That the works of God might be displayed in him." The episode keeps it — compare how it is said on screen.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 9 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.