



Stories Jesus Told – Vision Impairment x's 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 1)

SUGGESTED CONTEMPLATIVE DISCUSSION MODEL:

What are you learning about God from this story?

What are you learning about yourself from the story?

What questions does this story bring up for you?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)

TRADITIONAL DISCUSSION MODEL (pick 4-5 for discussion)

What's the funniest thing that's happened to you during an eye exam?

Read through Luke 6:36-42 and have the group make observations.

Who, specifically do you think Jesus is talking about? What issue is he addressing with them? In what ways do his words apply still today?

Read Luke 6:41-42. In what ways does this passage describe both the condition of *spiritual farsightedness*, and its cure?

What makes a person susceptible to this condition?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 2)

Read Matt 23:23. In what ways does this passage describe both the condition of *spiritual nearsightedness* and its cure? (See also Matt 25:25; John 4:35)

What makes a person susceptible to this condition?

How does the following quote apply to spiritual nearsightedness?

“You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.”

Anne Lamotte

In what ways are you susceptible to *spiritual blind spots*?

Read Pro 27:6. In what ways could the advice from this verse make you less susceptible to blind spots? Who has been your “guide” in the past with some of your blind spots?

Which of the three spiritually blind conditions do you feel most vulnerable to?



Leader's Guide: Vision Impairment x's 2 Luke 6:39

Sometimes a story is the *only* way to understand. Stories breakthrough in places where data, facts and creeds cannot. A story can help us understand things that cannot be understood by mere instruction - things like God, love, the world, or ourselves. We lose ourselves in stories, and every once in a while, we find ourselves – especially in *The Stories Jesus Told*.

OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

Blind leading the blind/Luke 6:39

Spiritual blindness is the inability to see the truth about yourself, God, or others.

Spiritual blindness is a highly prevalent, extremely serious condition if left untreated.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS:

1. SPIRITUAL FARSIGHTEDNESS is a condition in which you can see other people's shortcomings clearly, but your own are blurry.

Luke 6:41 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye?"

CURE: Before criticizing others, take a good look at yourself.

Luke 6:42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye?"

2. SPIRITUAL NEARSIGHTEDNESS is a self-focused condition in which you're able to clearly identify your needs, but others are blurry to you.

2 Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.



2Pet 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

2 Pet 1:8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being **ineffective and unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is **short-sighted and blind**, and has **forgotten** that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

The cure?

John 4:35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and **look at the fields!** They are ripe for harvest.

Christianity has become a list of expectations you have of others because you've stopped growing in grace.

CURE: Look at the opportunities God has given you to share the gospel

John 4:35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, **open your eyes** and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

3. SPIRITUAL BLINDSPOTS are the shortcomings that all of us have, that we are unaware of, and that we must rely on someone else to help us with.

There is no cure for blind spots.

But, we can lessen their impact by being open to feedback from those we trust

Pr 27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted