

Small Group Questions for the Week of March 8, 2015

The following questions are taken from the book entitled John: 26 Studies for Individuals and Groups by N.T. Wright. Please do not feel compelled to ask every question that is listed below. You know your group better than the person writing the questions. Ask the questions that are best for your group, and questions that you yourself are comfortable answering.

1. Read John 9:1-41. What does the disciples' question in verse 2 reveal about their beliefs about people born with disabilities?
2. How does Jesus correct their understanding and simultaneously reveal more about his work in the world (vv. 3-5)?
3. How does this affect the way you think about people in your life who are disabled or handicapped in some way?
4. Why did the Pharisees seek out the parents of the blind man (vv. 18-19)?
5. The synagogue was the focus of the whole community. If you were put out of the synagogue, you'd probably be better off leaving the area altogether. The man's parent are afraid, because they know the threat against anyone saying Jesus is the Messiah. They are anxious for their social standing, their livelihood, perhaps their lives.

How does the way the blind man's parents respond to the Pharisees reflect this fear?

6. Describe fears you've had about speaking plainly regarding your beliefs about Jesus because of the social consequences?
7. What argument does the blind man use to defend that Jesus is from God (vv. 30-33)?
8. Why do the Pharisees respond by throwing him out of the synagogue (v. 34)?
9. What progression of belief do you see in the man through this chapter?
10. Why do you think the man believes while the Pharisees remain unbelieving?
11. How is verse 41 a complete reversal of where the chapter began?